

# the johns hopkins NEWS-LETTER

PUBLISHED SINCE 1896 BY THE STUDENTS OF JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

VOLUME CXXI, ISSUE XVIII

WWW.JHNEWSLETTER.COM

APRIL 13, 2017

## LADYBIRDS SHOWCASE



COURTESY OF DANIELLE TINIO

The Ladybirds dance troupe pulled out all the stops in their Spring Showcase, which featured other dance groups. See Photo Essay A12.

## Free food initiative reduces waste on campus

By MORGAN OME  
Layout Editor

Food left over from events on campus is often thrown out, creating tons of waste each year. To address this problem, organizers of the Free Food Waste Remediation Initiative have launched an email system to alert students of leftover free food.

Nemo Keller, who graduated last fall, has spent this semester devel-

oping the project. She and Leana Houser, the Homewood recycling manager, identified food waste at Hopkins as a problem.

The program is still in its preliminary stages, but the Keller and Houser conducted a trial run on April 5 during SOHOP.

They initially thought of donating the leftover food, but timing, transportation, health concerns and storage made this plan impractical. Instead,

they worked to develop a way of reducing waste while keeping the food on campus.

"We got the idea of doing these notifications — email blasts, essentially — to tell students when and where there was available food... hopefully mitigating food waste while also making students happy and providing the service of giving them extra free food," Keller said. "Who doesn't want free food?"

Keller created a survey for event organizers to determine whether they would be receptive to donating their leftover food. Out of 56 organizers, close to 70 percent thought there was a need for a program to reduce food waste after catered events. They

reported that they end up wasting 15 percent of the total food that they order.

She then worked with the Student Government Association (SGA) to figure out what students thought about food waste. Eight hundred students responded to a survey she conducted, and more than 95 percent said that they wanted to receive free food after events and that they saw a need for a program to reduce food waste.

The initial idea for the program was brought up by Noah Erwin, who graduated in 2016. He thought of creating an app to alert students about food leftover from events. Erwin, Keller and

SEE FOOD WASTE, PAGE A6

## Morning Joe hosts talk media in the Trump era



COURTESY OF EMMA ROALSVIG

The MSNBC hosts analyzed Trump's strategic use of the media.

By EMMA ROALSVIG  
Staff Writer

Mika Brzezinski and Joe Scarborough, hosts of MSNBC's Morning Joe, came to Hopkins to discuss politics and the media. The Office of the Dean of Student Life sponsored the talk on Thursday, April 6.

Scarborough and Brzezinski reflected on their current political outlook, the past presidential election and their experiences working in broadcast media.

Brzezinski said that Republicans and Democrats used to socialize and enjoy debating one another, but now they struggle to work together. She asserted that this mistrust fosters an unproductive political environment.

Scarborough agreed that the two parties have historically been able to set aside differences in order to run the government.

"What did we do in the

90s? We balanced a budget for the first time in a generation," he said. "We passed welfare reform, we reformed the tax code."

He added that the current 24-hour news culture has exacerbated this partisanship.

"You can choose what news you want that reinforces all of your pre-existing prejudices, all of your pre-existing ideologies," Scarborough said. "Then by the end of the day, your political opponent is not wrong; Your political opponent is evil."

The increasingly rapid pace of the news cycle as opposed to two or three years ago has changed the nature of broadcast media. He said that events like the recent American missile strike against a Syrian airbase, which would have been massive news for an entire week, are now everyday occurrences.

"That is what everyday life is like in the

SEE MSNBC, PAGE A5

## New Horizons takes SGA exec. election

By ALYSSA WOODEN  
Staff Writer

The Committee on Student Elections (CSE) announced on Tuesday that the New Horizons ticket won the Student Government Association (SGA) executive board elections, defeating the HopForward ticket.

The 2017-2018 SGA executive board will consist of Noh Mebrahtu as executive president, AJ Tsang as executive vice president, Mi Tu as executive treasurer and Rushabh Doshi as executive secretary.

Mebrahtu, who is the sophomore class president, won with 718 votes, and current executive vice president and junior Anna Du followed with 622 votes.

Tsang, a sophomore class senator, received 755 votes, beating freshman class senator Alex Walinskis, who won 545 votes.

Doshi, a freshman class senator, was elected with 757 votes, while junior Lucas Rosen received 531 votes.

Tu, a sophomore senator, won with 775 votes, surpassing the 522 votes for sophomore Kush

Mansuria.

A total of 1,421 voters participated in the election, an increase of 50 from last year.

Mebrahtu attributed the win to his ticket's ability to work together.

"I think when we ran, we ran as a very cohesive unit," he said. "I think in that cohesiveness, we garnered votes from people that we would never be able to reach on our own."

Members of New Horizons were excited to begin

enacting their platform.

"This is a campaign of ideas, and there was such a humbling sense of hope and change," Tsang said.

Doshi also noted that New Horizons' effort to include

each individual student in their platform was crucial to their victory.

All four New Horizons candidates praised HopForward for their campaign. Tsang mentioned that he wishes to implement some of their ideas, such as building entrepreneurship spaces on campus.

"We would also like to thank them for running against us and

SEE SGA ELECTION, PAGE A5

## Student leaders launch progressive newsletter

By SARAH Y. KIM  
Staff Writer

Environmental advocacy group Students for Environmental Action (SEA) recently launched the Progressive Student Update (PSU), a weekly newsletter that aims to unite left-leaning student groups on campus.

Incorporating the contributions of numerous student groups like the Black Student Union (BSU) and Hopkins College Democrats, the PSU strives to inform students about current events and also inspire political activism.

According to junior Kyra Meko, a PSU coordinator and SEA board

member, progressive student group leaders at Hopkins initially came up with the idea in February after talking with Donna Brazile, former Democratic National Convention (DNC) interim chairwoman.

"After the meeting, some of the student group leaders, including myself, felt increasingly disheartened about the Democratic Party's commitment to representing progressive values and taking young people seriously," Meko wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

According to Meko, they also felt that it was becoming more difficult to track the barrage of news in the aftermath

of U.S. President Donald Trump's victory.

"The members of the different student groups all had information about current events related to their field of interest," Meko wrote. "[We realized] that a coalition of the left-leaning student groups on campus would bring information together."

SEA is currently in charge of the PSU and is responsible for reaching out to contributors and revising their entries. Each of the contributors writes two-to-three sentence summaries of current events relevant to their causes, which they post in a shared Google Doc each week.

After revising the entries, SEA publishes and shares the newsletter on Tuesday mornings.

Aside from the BSU and College Democrats, SEA has also reached out to Hopkins Feminists, Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) and Voice for Choice.

"We are very open to incorporating other progressive groups," Meko wrote.

The label 'progressive' was a point of contention among student leaders, some of whom expressed concern that it might alienate potential readers. Ultimately, contributors decided it was more inclusive.

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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

### The 2000s emo movement

Kyra Lesser gives an overview of celebrities, like Billy Joe Armstrong, who defined the "emo" look. **ARTS, PAGE B4**



### Adoptees deserve citizenship

Catherine Palmer argues that foreign-born adopted children should be granted U.S. citizenship. **OPINIONS, PAGE A11**

### Guidelines for free expression?

Concerned student groups call for the University to amend its new policy on student protests. **OPINIONS, PAGE A11**



## NEWS &amp; FEATURES

# SGA passes bill to promote civic activity

By VALERIE CHAVEZ  
For The News-Letter

The Student Government Association (SGA) held its weekly meeting in Charles Commons on Tuesday. SGA members discussed three major initiatives, which included implementing a new on-line voting system and funding a student consulting group.

After beginning the meeting by congratulating the winners of the executive board elections, the SGA passed two bills and debated amendments to the bylaws.

Freshman Class President Anthony Boutros presented the first bill to implement the program, TurboVote, on campus next year.

TurboVote is an on-line system that operates through the University and makes it easier for students to register to vote, print absentee ballots and stay informed about election dates. The system is already in place at over three hundred universities around the country.

"This should be a student-run initiative to increase civic engagement on campus," Boutros said. "We should create a culture on campus where students fight for their rights, vote and get engaged in politics at the school level, local level and national level. We would simplify the process so they can have their voices heard."

Boutros pointed to the low voter turnout among U.S. citizens, particularly college students.

He emphasized that both the University and SGA has a responsibility to help students stay informed and facilitate their participation in the democratic process. Boutros has been working with the Dean of Student Life Terry Martinez to research and implement this initiative.

"Dean Martinez was surprised we didn't have it, and was also excited," Boutros said. "Dean Martinez will be funding half the cost of TurboVote, and said that in future years she'd even been willing to fund it all."

SGA passed the bill and the University will begin using TurboVote on the Homewood campus next semester. The SGA and the Office of Student Life will split the \$2,500 cost of the new system.

The next bill was related to revising the SGA bylaws. AJ Tsang, sophomore class senator, presented a new draft of the bylaws, and members examined several sections.

They first addressed the section requiring SGA members to go through mandatory training programs like diversity and inclusion training from the Office of Multicultural Affairs and the Office of Gender Equity and safe-zone training from the Office of LGBTQ Life.

"So essentially [the training] would give SGA members the resources

they need to serve the student body," Tsang said.

SGA members debated whether the provisions of the bylaws were transparent, concise and necessary. After revising some of the wording and content of these articles, SGA voted to approve reviewed sections.

Finally, SGA approved a bill to retroactively provide \$500 of funding for a consulting networking event hosted by the

**"We should create a culture on campus where students fight for their rights."**

— ANTHONY BOUTROS, FRESHMAN CLASS PRESIDENT

Johns Hopkins Undergraduate Consulting Club at the Hopkins club.

Senior Class Senator Jonathan Brown defended the bill, saying that many Hopkins students go into consulting careers.

"Consulting is one of the largest career routes that Hopkins students go into," he said. "I'm pretty sure everyone has a friend or two or three who will become consultants for a couple of years."

The SGA meeting closed with announcements from SGA advisor, Kirsten Fricke. She informed them that the deadline for student groups to register for next year is April 15 and that an alarmingly small number of student groups had registered out of the 409 total groups on campus.

"I checked this morning and we have 150 groups re-registered," she said. "If you are a part of organizations we have not re-registered, make sure you're doing that, and encourage folks to be paying attention to that."

# MEDTalks panelists address health in Baltimore

By PETER JI  
Senior Staff Writer

The first annual MEDTalks conference invited a group of eight professionals, with backgrounds in medicine, research and community health, to discuss how their studies could be applied.

The Hopkins chapter of United Against Inequities in Disease (UAID) and MEDLIFE co-hosted the event, which took place in Charles Commons on Monday, April 10.

The students had a series of roundtable discussions with the panelists and asked them questions about what they learned while practicing medicine during their careers. About 40 undergraduate students attended, rotating between the discussion tables.

Dr. Peter Agre, winner of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his discovery of aquaporins, presented the keynote speech. He addressed the differences between medical schools today and in the 1970s, when he was a student at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine.

Agre noted that within his graduating class, he was one of the few students admitted from the U.S. North Central region. He said that today, the School of Medicine continues to add geographic, ethnic and gender diversity to its class.

"I found the people in the [research] lab extremely colorful," Agre said. "Some people have this idea that scientists all are very stern and have messy haircuts and pocket protectors. In my lab, there was a person from Hawaii and a Spanish anarchist."

He believes that his research career also made him more appreciative of the diversity that he had lacked in his home state of Minnesota.

"Until I came to Hopkins, I knew very few African Americans," he said. "In my graduating

class, there were only two or three African Americans. Now going back to Minnesota in an all-white community doesn't sound very interesting."

In one roundtable discussion, Hopkins Oncology Professor David Ettinger and Director of Public Health Campaigns at the Baltimore City Health Department John Comer told students to consider the implications of serving people who face inequity in care, especially in Baltimore.

"I'd encourage you to learn as much as you can about Baltimore," Ettinger said. "With the amount of disparity in Baltimore, you should be interested in working on behalf of local community. It has rural areas, poor areas and many types of areas."

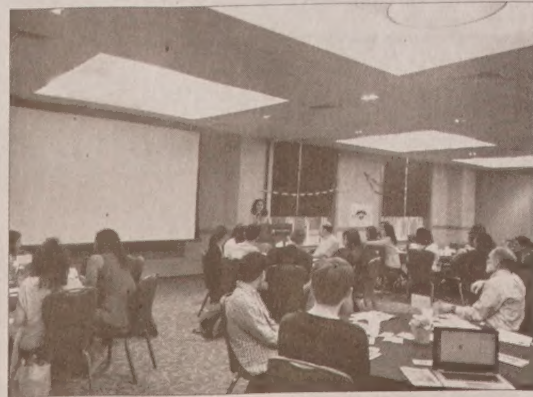
Comer believes health professionals and volunteers who enter these communities need to work on earning the people's respect. He told students to go beyond providing medical services and to get to know the people who live there.

"Giving people the opportunity to tell their story, that's a big part of building trust," Comer said. "A lot of people have been sold up the river in the past, so you have to demonstrate real commitment. Do a check up, a phone call when you don't usually give check-ups or phone calls."

According to Agre, although technology facilitates the practice of medicine, it cannot replace the personal connections needed in healthcare.

"Technology is a tool that provides information. Practicing medicine is a lot more complicated than that. If you're a pilot, you'll have an altimeter, but putting it together is complex. Many of you have become medical doctors. In talking to your patients, you'll learn important information," he said.

Alicia Diehl, who graduated from Hopkins in



COURTESY OF PETER JI  
Students gathered in Charles Commons for the first annual MEDTalks.

2007, took the realities of healthcare inequity in Baltimore to heart. After graduating, she worked for a national nonprofit called HealthCorps, which hosts health workshops at schools across the country.

Now, Diehl works at the Institute for Integrative Health in Baltimore. She runs a cooking workshop called "Five Times a Feast" that partners with schools, community sites and churches to provide information on nutrition and affordable, healthy eating.

"I arrive with my cooking supplies and I get ingredients delivered and we talk about health... we break up into small groups and cook together," she said. "Each family unit that comes makes six servings of whatever that recipe is. Building a community of support around healthy eating really makes it something ongoing that happens for people."

Recently, Diehl has started training people to become "cooking coaches" to teach others about healthy behaviors. She stressed that, for her, medicine is not necessarily pharmaceuticals or surgery.

"To me, food is medicine, exercise is medicine, stress reduction and love, laughter are medicine and way we approach that is through education," she said. "We go out in com-

munities and give them the education that we have... activating these public spaces around healthy behaviors."

Valeria Fuentes, a senior at the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA), also runs a healthy food program. Having majored in architectural design, she hopes to integrate social work with design. She plans to pursue a master's degree in social design at Hopkins.

Fuentes designed a mobile kitchen as part of her volunteer program and it inspired her to incorporate design into aspects of her social work.

"A kitchen is a central part of the home and I noticed that when there's no kitchen, people don't sit down to eat together anymore," she said. "How can I create a mobile kitchen where I can carry my kitchen anywhere? I think anybody can be a chef. The kids I work with, they are inspired to work, create and eat healthy."

Junior Anjie Ge especially liked that the event facilitated personal discussion between the participants and panelists. For her, it set the MEDTalks conference apart from other events.

"This gave me the opportunity to ask them questions," she said. "I was with Valerie Fuentes and it was interesting [learning] how food is an integral part of being healthy."

# Pulitzer Prize winning journalist presents book on WWI



PUBLIC DOMAIN

Englund's book explores WWI, which was fought 100 years ago.

By EMILY MCDONALD  
For The News-Letter

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Will Englund discussed his debut book, *March 1917: On the Brink of War and Revolution*, on Thursday, April 6 in Barnes and Noble.

The book focuses on the month before the U.S. entered World War I and analyzes the events that spurred U.S. involvement.

"The question I'm trying to answer in this book is: How did we ever get there?" Englund said.

Englund argues that this crucial one-month period helped form the U.S. into the nation that we know today.

"[America] went from being a country that was not paying much atten-

tion to the world, to one that felt like it had found its calling to go out into the world, to remake the world in its own image," he said.

He further emphasized the shift of perspective on American foreign policy.

"It all began in this month of March — what we call Wilsonian interventionism, idealism — and it was over the course of just six weeks that it became integral to the American outlook of the world," he said.

Englund also discussed the many similarities between the political climate of the U.S. back then versus now. He pointed out how in March 1917, there were events and trends such as outrage against inequitable wealth distribution, street

protests in Russia and a redefinition of the media.

"There wasn't Twitter," Englund said. "But there were telegrams, which had somewhat the same effect."

Englund also spoke about how he hopes the book covers aspects of life in America that are not typically included in a narrative about the country's involvement in WWI.

He points to the women's rights movement in the context of Jeannette Rankin, the first female member of Congress, as well as the lives of African Americans at this time.

"What I wanted to do was really make this portrait of the two countries as they were tumbling towards this dramatic moment. It's not just about Wilson or the cabinet or the Congress... I also wanted to get into the suffrage movement, and the labor movement, and popular music and the really difficult conditions and questions faced by African-Americans," he said.

One audience member asked about Englund's opinion on the parallels he drew between 1917 and 2017.

"Parallels can be taken so far. I think it's interesting to see that we're not the first to grapple with these issues. I don't think these parallels are neces-

sarily going to drive us in the same direction. I hope they don't," Englund said.

John Buckley, a self-proclaimed history buff, found that revisiting the historical events of the book was relevant to today.

"I thought that the suffragette movement information was really great," he said. "It's very poignant nowadays to see that. People don't understand that it's hasn't been that long, that women's rights haven't been a guarantee for only a hundred years."

Steve Luxenberg, a friend of Englund, attended the event to support him and spoke about his own views as an author.

"I'm writing a book in which I also see a lot of parallels between the nineteenth century and today," he said. "It's important to remember that we're not as smart and as savvy as we think we are, that they were talking about some of the issues that are important today back then."

Overall, Luxenberg was impressed with Englund's discussion of his book.

"He did an excellent job of engaging you in the book," he said. "He's a lively speaker, and I think that's very important when you're trying to talk about a book, otherwise no one's going to either

buy it or read it."

Audience members Bill and Deb Howard attended the event because they had read some of Englund's journalistic work and saw the book mentioned in an article.

"I was surprised by the concern and the interest by the women's movement and the African-American movement," Deb Howard said.

Bill Howard appreciated the various aspects of history Englund included in his book.

"One thing that I was interested to hear him talk about is how he pulled together so many different strands," he said. "He said music, culture, civil rights. It wasn't just all about war and politics."

They both also discussed the similarities between today and the past.

"It's humbling that there are so many parallels, and maybe we haven't learned much in a hundred years," he said. "Our country is not as far advanced as we'd like to think. We still haven't solved a lot of the same basic issues."

Deb had a more optimistic take.

"I felt, while in some ways, while it's humbling, it's also a little bit comforting," she said. "We still somehow survive as a nation."



## NEWS &amp; FEATURES

## Veritas Forum explores science and religion



KUNAL MAITI/PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF

Nuclear Science and Engineering professor Ian Hutchinson argued that religion complements science.

By JEANNE LEE

For The News-Letter

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) professor Ian Hutchinson discussed the relationship between religion and science as part of the Veritas Forum last Thursday, April 6. The talk titled, "Does Science Lead to Atheism?" took place in the Bloomberg Center for Physics and Astronomy.

Hutchinson discussed his past experience participating in a debate surrounding science and religion that was broadcasted on PBS.

The debate took place in New York City, where, according to Hutchinson, the majority of the audience members were liberals and atheists. Hutchinson emphasized that today's presentation was meant to be a discussion.

"This is not a debate," Hutchinson said. "We're not trying to win a vote. It's a forum, and we're trying to discover the truth."

He pointed out how some religious beliefs were more susceptible to being discounted by science.

"The belief that thunderstorms are literally the actions of angry Zeus, hurling down lightning bolts from Mount Olympus, could reasonably be considered to be refuted by our scientific understanding of lightning," he said.

However, Hutchinson argued that this is not the case for God and the Bible.

"The situation is very different for the biblical conception of God, who is the creator and sustainer of the whole universe, not just one of its residents," Hutchinson said. "The belief in God who put in place and upholds the laws of physics is not refuted, or even contradicted, by science."

He pointed out that, to many, the laws of nature seem to support atheism.

"If everything that happens in the world is just the workings of impersonal laws of physics, then those laws begin themselves to take on the appearance of being the foundational reality," Hutchinson said. "If the world is nothing but a closed system, governed by laws, then all we have to deal with is those laws, and God makes no practical difference. He might as well not exist."

Hutchinson also discussed problems with deism and determinism. Deism is the idea that God created the universe but does not intervene, while determinism is the idea that all events are prede-

termined.

"If the universe really were deterministic, then it would indeed be a difficult to make sense of," Hutchinson said. "If everything just follows from the equations of physics and the initial conditions of the words 'determinism,' you could point it to atheism."

On the other hand, Hutchinson argued that unpredictable occurrences in science can support deism.

"One of the more remarkable things about physics is now we know the universe is not deterministic," Hutchinson said. "Quantum physics shows that there are phenomena that are inherently unpredictable."

Hutchinson also argued that the theory of evolution does not contradict with Christian belief because the presence of animals and plants provides evidence that suggests an original creator.

"The exquisite adaptations of animals and plants to their environment showed evidence that they were designed and that that implied there was a designer: God," he said.

Because evolution suggests that genetic variance causes biodiversity, many believe that evolutionary theory replaces the role of the creator in intelligent design.

Some, therefore, argue that evolution serves as an alternative to what had previously been the best argument: atheism: Creationism.

Hutchinson, however, disagreed with this argument and explained that both the theory of evolution and the existence of a creator could coexist.

"A sensible theistic response to evolution is to say that having a natural explanation of a natural phenomenon does not at all rule out the purposes or attentions or actions of God," Hutchinson said.

Hutchinson provided an analogy of a person boiling water to illustrate his argument.

"If there is water boiling in a kettle on a stove, the fact that there is a scientific explanation of boiling does not rule out the explanation that the water is boiling

because I want a cup of tea," Hutchinson said. "Some things done by God have no natural explanation, but God can and does use natural ways to accomplish his will."

He then transitioned to discuss the role of Christianity in academia. He showed the audience data from a survey conducted by the National Academy of Science, which showed that the majority of people in academia were in fact not Christians.

"It is true that the poll suggests that the top elite of scientists are a lot less likely to believe in God," he said. "It is the case that the most accomplished academics are less likely to believe in God."

Hutchinson then elaborated on the historical relationship between the church and academia. He argued against the fact that the church had prevented the growth of science.

"The myth is that the church held up the development of science," Hutchinson said. "It is believed that only when this warfare between science and religion was effectively won by science that true liberation of human thought from the debilitating effects of religious faith was accomplished."

Hutchinson explained that universities were originally Christian foundations, but that they over time became more secular.

He argued that, rather than hampering scientific endeavor, the churches promoted it.

"The very fact that Christian institutions nurtured science, and that Christian ministers were frequently the scientists responsible for its development, and that the great scientists of history were predominantly themselves Christians gives the lie to the mythology," he said.

Hutchinson finished the talk by saying that science does not lead to

atheism.

"I think that my science leads me to God," he said.

Audience members who attended the presentation, such as freshman Omar Lloyd, appreciated Hutchinson's balanced stance on the discussion.

"Hutchinson was on both sides of the debate," Lloyd said. "He was saying you could have religion and science in the same fields and not really have major conflicts."

Junior Kelsey Waddill believes these kinds of discussions are crucial to furthering the discourse on science and religion.

"As a humanities student at a very scientifically minded school, and as a Christian, I feel like this is a very pertinent question," Waddill said. "Having a discussion like this and being able to carry that into our day-to-day lives is part of fostering more feelings of getting an answer."

Others who attended the talk pointed out areas in which Hutchinson could strengthen his argument.

"He picked sections from the Bible as examples," Lloyd said. "It seems like he didn't go to other religions but he went to Christianity first."

Some students also mentioned that Hutchinson's arguments seemed to come off as biased, since he was speaking about the subject matter from a Christian perspective.

"While I am Christian, I can say the one thing is some of his discussion seems a little bit anti-secularist," freshman Luc Renaux said.

He highlighted the need to balance secular institutions with the belief of others.

"I very much value the secular institution and the secular state. My response to that is how you balance expressing your belief, but also realizing in a secular institution respecting the belief of others," he said.

Students respected Hutchinson's use of scientific knowledge in his argument.

However, junior Ben Costello also believed that building an argument using disciplines outside of the sciences would have been interesting to hear.

"One thing I thought was interesting was that there is truth that science can get at through its methods," he said. "It's different than the methods used in other disciplines, and that doesn't mean that the kind of truth these disciplines arrive at is any less true or less important than the kinds of truths that science can get at."



KUNAL MAITI/PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF

Anand Gnanadesikan, professor of Earth and Planetary Sciences, moderated the talk.

## Suspended professor contests OIE inquiry

By JACOB TOOK

Staff Writer

The Office of Institutional Equity (OIE) interviewed Trent Bertrand, an adjunct professor in the economics department who was suspended in December, as part of an ongoing investigation into claims that he created a "hostile environment" in his classroom. The interview took place on Friday, April 7.

According to Bertrand, the OIE addressed complaints from students about his inappropriate behavior in class during the interview. The students who voiced their concerns alleged that he made comments and jokes that they found racist or sexist. Bertrand denies these allegations.

Bertrand said he was concerned the University's policies on diversity violated his academic freedom.

"If I don't think those policies are correct and they're affecting me in a negative way, I certainly have a right to speak out against those policies," he said. "And I will continue to do so."

Bertrand has been critical of the investigation overall, citing a lack of transparency in the University's

process. He explained that his request to have the proceedings taped or to have a lawyer present were denied at the interview on Friday.

"If I was to suggest how [the OIE] could correct the procedures to make these fairer to the person being investigated, it would be to have the OIE allow interviews to be taped, allow legal representation or observers to be present and give forewarning about the complaints they wish to discuss," Bertrand wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

According to Bertrand, the OIE gave him no reason for their policy against recording the interviews.

However, in an email to *The News-Letter*, OIE Vice Provost Kimberly Hewitt explained that the interviews are not recorded and do not include the presence of lawyers because they are not part of a formal legal process.

"OIE's process is designed to encourage information gathering and an open exchange of information through interviews and fact-gathering; this is a key part of OIE's investigations," Hewitt wrote.

Bertrand said he hopes the OIE will find the complaints alleged against him baseless. He argued that the "vast majority" of his students enjoyed his course. However, he said that if the OIE decides otherwise, he plans to take other steps.

Should the OIE conclude that the claims against Bertrand are legitimate, Bertrand intends to take the case to

the Homewood Academic Council (HAC).

According to their website, this group of faculty is charged with reviewing faculty appointments, periodically reviewing departments and considering cases of faculty discipline, among other things.

Bertrand also said he had reached out to the national headquarters of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP). According to Bertrand, AAUP Senior Program Officer Anita Levy sent a letter to University President Ronald J. Daniels at the end of January supporting Bertrand's request for a faculty review of the University's decision to suspend him.

Bertrand explained that Provost Sunil Kumar responded by stating that the University would not comment until the OIE investigation was complete.

The AAUP Hopkins chapter was unaware of this letter. They stated that they had not exchanged any correspondences with Bertrand.

Bertrand said that, were he to consider filing a lawsuit against the University, he would also contact the Equal Employment

Opportunity Commission, which enforces civil rights laws against workplace discrimination.

"I might try and get some of this material to the Trump administration," he said. "To Betsy DeVos who's in the Department of Education and to Jeff Sessions who's in the Department of Justice. We're getting to a place where the ability of students to hear different perspectives and to make up their own minds is being squashed."

Hewitt wrote that the OIE will not consider Bertrand's possible plans for future action while making their decision.

"OIE makes a determination about whether or not University policy was violated based upon the facts and information gathered during the course of the investigation, without regard for any other process that might follow or action that any party might take after the OIE process has concluded," she wrote.

Bertrand said that he was proud of the students and parents who have sent him emails of support.

"I've been extremely pleased at all of these unsolicited emails that came in that support the course," he said. "I'd put those things on my gravestone; They were great recommendations for me. I'd like to tell those students that supported it that I really appreciate that. I was very proud of them."

It is currently unknown when the OIE will conclude their investigation.

Sam Fossum contributed reporting.

**"OIE's process is designed to encourage information gathering and an open exchange."**

— KIMBERLY

HEWITT,

VICE PROVOST



## NEWS &amp; FEATURES

# Students start left-leaning newsletter

NEWSLETTER, FROM A1  
than other terms like 'liberal' or 'democratic'. They also reasoned that PSU's content is directed towards those who identify as progressive.

"We decided on the word 'Progressive' because we feel it most accurately represents left-leaning students who want to be politically informed and take action," Meko wrote. "Many students in this category feel that the Democratic Party doesn't represent their interests."

Freshman Tarek Meah, PSU contributor from the Students for Justice in Palestine, believes that being progressive means to be progressive on everything, including the issue of Palestine.

"[Students for Justice in Palestine] is a very progressive club in that we challenge the establishment view the United States has had towards its relationship with Israel," he said. "That's what progress is: contemplating the institutions that exist and trying to evoke change through movements like Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions."

However, Meah asserted that progressive is a flexible term.

"The definition is different for everyone," he said. "You have a lot of people on Hopkins Dems who are Pro-Clinton and say they're progressive. Progressive, without any of my bias, means to be able to fight the injustices of our system towards people who may act different, look different, feel different, and to be able to challenge the institutions in place in order to achieve more of an equal society."

Given this, Meah believes that 'progressive' is an appropriate label.

"All of the contributors are progressive in one sense or the other," he said.

PSU coordinator junior Darius Mostaghimi intends for the initiative to be as inclusive as possible.

"The PSU is not just for straight-up progressives," Mostaghimi wrote in an email to The News-Letter. "It's for anybody who may have progressive leanings who may be too busy with schoolwork and other things to actively go out and find ways to stay involved with the political process."

Mostaghimi also emphasized that the PSU's content is not solely related to the Trump administration.

"It talks about national, state, and local — especially campus-related — issues as well," he wrote. "A person who does not care so much about national issues may be interested in what is going on with events going on right before their eyes."

So far SEA has published only two issues of PSU. Meah says that while the newsletter has not yet drawn a wide readership, it could eventually spark debate.

"Once it does reach a larger audience, one of the first groups to be targeted would be our group," he said. "There's a lot of staunch opposition to the things we say."

# Art exhibit sheds light on gun violence in America



Almost 40 people sat around the pop-up exhibit, which featured rifles created from household objects.

By SARAH Y. KIM  
Staff Writer

Sculptor and printmaker David Hess displayed a collection of mock assault rifles in the Levering Glass Pavilion on Monday afternoon. Titled the *Gun Show*, the pop-up exhibition centered around a panel discussion, during which nearly 40 people gathered in a circle around the rifles and related their personal experiences with guns and gun violence.

The exhibition was co-hosted by the Hopkins Museums Club and the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA). The show was funded by the Johns Hopkins Alumni Association Student Grant Program.

The rifles are life-sized and assembled with various household objects, such as shoes and sewing machines, which Hess explained came from his "hoarding."

Hess asserted that the objects he used to create the mock guns were chosen based on their shape, rather than chosen to convey a message.

"The objects are made of barrels and triggers and stocks," he said. "They're clearly made from abstractions. There is a little bit of irony here and there, but it's mostly form I'm playing with."

Hess described the rifles as being human-like in their form, especially when the weapons are laid out on the ground.

"It's very intentional that they look like real bodies, particularly when they're laid out in these long lines," he said. "It's a memorial in a way and kind of scary — that a thing that is so much activated by a person is not attached to a person. It's lying on the ground."

Visitors were allowed to hold the mock rifles, which were laid out on a stretch of white cloth in the center of the Pavilion, and get their pictures taken.

"When you pick them up you have a weird extension of your arm," Hess said. "They're heavy. You feel the weight of them. When you pick them up, you kind of feel this weird thing that everyone has been talking about: power. Also fear."

Hess came up with the idea for his project in the '90s, but did not begin working on it until after the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in 2012. He admitted that he has struggled to understand why the Sandy Hook shooting struck him more profoundly than other instances of gun violence.

"In Baltimore there are 300 murders a year,"

he said. "I feel some degree of — I wouldn't say embarrassment — but why wasn't I moved by that? What was it about Sandy Hook that was so horrific in my mind at the time?"

Hess, who has never had firsthand experience with gun violence, said that his strong reaction to the Sandy Hook shooting may have stemmed from memories of his daughter going to kindergarten.

"That said, my white daughter going off to kindergarten looked like those kids," he said. "I think that was just my impulse as a parent, to be like: Wow, this is so crazy that this happened in this suburban community that looks a lot like the community I raise my kids in."

Over time, he felt that there was a racial aspect to his reaction and people's emotional reactions to gun violence as well. Hess said it may stem from the

ways people dehumanize each other because they look different.

"There are 300 lives lost in Baltimore city, and it's really crazy how, because I'm a white guy, I don't think about those lives," Hess said. "And it's not about importance. It's a way we think about each other. I don't think I'm alone in that."

Hess asserted that as an artist he does not have a specific goal, and that his exhibition is not meant to convey a specific political message or stance. He described the importance of holding a panel discussion.

"It's accomplishing pretty much everything in a conversation like this," he said. "The conversation is so complicated and so in a lot of ways is so much bigger than this project."

Previously Hess interacted with viewers by interviewing people he passed in the street, rather than holding group discussions.

"I've done these events where people in New York City are walking by and we interview them and stuff but really don't spend the time to listen and talk to them, because you're standing on the street corner," he said. "Maybe this becomes the new format, to tell you the truth."

He described Monday's exhibition as the best event he and his team have had so far.

"Looking around at this incredibly wonderful diverse group of people, it's pretty amazing sitting in a circle and feeling this energy here," Hess said. "It is really interesting hearing people say it for themselves. And it is weird too, sitting in this circle of guns pointing at ourselves."

Alumna Mary Yen came to the exhibition expecting to see references for her gun drawings, and was surprised to see the rifles were made of household objects. She found herself struck by the idea of how commonplace guns are in American households.

"It did get me kind of confused. I didn't really notice at first [that they were mock rifles]," Yen said. "I thought they were all legitimate guns because that's what we were looking for. It set for the mood for how strange guns might be in our society."

Hess recalled how a teacher in Nashville once told him that the project must be "so much fun" and described the project as "whimsical."

"Ultimately it has never felt whimsical to me at all," Hess said. "It has felt incredibly emotional to me, kind of this weird devious exploration of a dark side of humanity. I've never really been there at all, never really experienced gun violence first hand."



Participants reflected on their experiences with guns and gun violence in America.

# Prof. explores implications of Chinese-African business ties

By KAREN SHENG  
Staff Writer

Yoon Jung Park, an adjunct associate professor in the African Studies Program at Georgetown University, presented "Chinese labor migrants in Africa, past and present," a talk about the history of Chinese migration to Africa and the African response to the new Chinese migrants.

The presentation, which happened on April 7, was co-hosted by the African Students Association and the Hopkins Inter-Asian Council (IAC).

Park started by describing the historical relations of China and Africa and the incomplete Western narratives of African-Chinese relations.

"I wanted to focus on that since there's the sense of 'Oh, China and Africa,

that's totally new, there are no Chinese in Africa or there haven't been Chinese in Africa," when in fact, there's a long history of relations," she said.

Park argued that countries such as the United States, the United Kingdom and France worry that China is aiming to dominate Africa as a neocolonial power.

Frequent themes of the discourse include concerns that China is draining Africa of its natural resources, promoting authoritarian dictators or violating labor laws. "There are clearly some elements of truth to some of these concerns, but in terms of the Western narrative, all of that has been overblown," she said. "All of this stems from the fear of being overtaken as the most dominant player in Africa. A lot of it stems

from fear of this new player stomping on their former colonial turf."

During the 1950s and 1960s, when African colonies were starting to fight for independence, China established friendly ties in support of African independence movements.

"That's when China begins the next chapter of their narrative of Africa-China relations, this solidarity between comrades, that Africa and China, together with other third world nations, have to bind themselves together to combat Western imperialism. It's all about friendship," she said.

Today approximately one million Chinese people live in Africa. Of this population, a large portion were brought to Africa by Chinese state-owned enterprises and private companies to work in construction, mining and natural resource extraction.

The majority of the companies are national state-owned enterprises, but there are increasing numbers of provincial-owned enterprises and private companies.

Park described how

African governments have been receptive to the influx of Chinese labor.

"They appreciate the fact that China doesn't have this baggage and that China doesn't try to tell Africans what to do or enter negotiations saying 'We have to help these poor brown brothers and sisters.' It's not out of pity, they want to do business," she said. "There's been a lot of appreciation for that different tone."

IAC Vice President, sophomore Evelyn Yeh, said that Park was asked to give this talk because of her specialized knowledge as a researcher of Chinese-African relations.

"I've never had the opportunity to learn more about the relations of any history of China or the relations of China with other countries, in the present day especially," she said.

Yeh also commented on the low turnout for the event.

"Since there wasn't food, it was hard to get people to come to informative events like this. Usually people go to fun events like TASA Night Market," she said. "Stuff

like that is more cultural, [what] you would expect from our Asian community, since we don't focus a lot on our activism and our history...They like eating our food, and that's all they know about us."

Freshman IAC member Julia See noted how China's relationship with Africa is not particularly well known.

"It never came up to me, so I wanted to learn more about Chinese people in Africa, because you just don't think of it. When I think of Chinese immigrants, I think about the United States or North America, you never think of them going to a third world country or somewhere like Africa," she said.

She was also interested by Park's descriptions of the discrimination that Chinese immigrants sometimes face in Africa.

"Just as in America there's racial profiling of African Americans, in Africa, they racially profile Chinese people," she said. "I thought that was interesting, to see the flip, to see how much racism against Chinese people there is, because I don't experience much here."



## NEWS &amp; FEATURES

## SGA exec. board-elect outlines their plans

SGA ELECTION, FROM A1 competing," Mebrahtu said. "Without them, we don't think that there would be such a large voter turnout, and through that competition we were able to foster more student engagement."

HopForward executive president candidate Du reflected on her experience campaigning.

"I am so grateful for the opportunity," she wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "We congratulate the other team."

Rosen was happy to have participated in the election. He cited his ticket's pragmatism and lack of ambition as the campaign's key problems.

"We aren't those wide-eyed, bushy-tailed underclassmen anymore," Rosen wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "Obviously the student body was looking for more ambition on a lot of things, and if I could go back I'd probably be more ambitious too."

In particular, Rosen felt his ticket should have taken a stronger stance on supporting minorities on campus.

"There's so much I didn't know before this campaign season about the issues facing certain groups around our school," he wrote. "And it was too little too late when I started to realize just how different my Hopkins experience was [compared to] that of many others."

Rosen is confident that New Horizons will do an excellent job as the executive board in the coming year.

"I'm fully optimistic that New Horizons will improve this school and the perception of SGA," he wrote.

HopForward executive treasurer candidate Kush Mansuria shared Rosen's sentiment.

"I am proud of the hard work our team put into this campaign and enjoyed working with them," Mansuria wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "I wish New Horizons good luck and look forward to seeing what they accomplish next year."

Walinskas said that she is grateful for the opportunity to be a part of HopForward and plans to remain active in SGA.

"I have been so grateful for this experience to practice being a leader on campus and work with an incredible team," she wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "I am still just as dedicated to the SGA and looking forward to running again for Senate this spring."

Overall, the members of New Horizons were happy with the election process. Tsang voiced his

appreciation for the high voter turnout.

"I think that, especially in comparison to previous elections, it was pretty good. If you look at data over the past 10 years or so, our numbers are the highest since 2014," Tsang said. "I think part of that was driven by the fact that there were two full tickets running for the first time since 2014."

Tsang also enjoyed the debate between the two tickets that occurred Thursday night.

Tu, however, expressed dissatisfaction with the debate.

"I think [the debate] is really useful for students to know our platforms, and who we are," she said. "But the attendance appears to be a little low, because the location was a little far from the main campus."

Tu also believes there have been more open conversation between the two tickets.

"We didn't really get a chance to respond to our opponents for every question. So it's not really a debate for the most part, it's more like a forum," she said.

New Horizons also discussed their plans for next year.

"One of our biggest platforms obviously is civic engagement," Mebrahtu said. "We'll be working on creating a committee for that and bringing students from across the campus to be involved."

Tsang highlighted the ticket's plan to support University contract workers currently fighting for a \$15 per-hour minimum wage, among other demands.

"[We're] also going to work on JHU workers rights," Tsang wrote. "We want to [reach] a resolution before the year is even over, and make sure that gets through."

The ticket listed a number of challenges they predict they will face, such as obstacles from the administration and divisions in the student body, as well as within SGA itself.

Doshi hopes that New Horizons' focus on civic engagement will help them overcome these challenges.

Despite these obstacles, all members of New Horizons look forward to serving in their positions and hope to use their positions to create change at Hopkins.

"[We hope] to actually affect and influence the campus and the current administration," Mebrahtu said. "With the genuine issues that are facing the student body, I think that's the ultimate gift, to be given this ability and this position to do so."

## MSNBC hosts analyze media's role in politics



KAREEM OSMAN/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Hosts of MSNBC's show *Morning Joe* discussed changes in broadcast media coverage since the election.

MSNBC FROM A1 morning at our jobs, and it's been that way since the election," Scarborough said. "I don't know if it's ever going to slow down. I will say though that most people like me that have spent a lot of their adult lives in Washington simply don't know [if] this is sustainable."

Brzezinski and Scarborough have known U.S. President Donald Trump for over a decade, and Scarborough stressed that the Trump they knew is the opposite of the reality TV persona he takes on. According to Scarborough, the way he talks about himself on TV is not what he is like in person.

"[On TV he is] always talking about himself, always exaggerating, and sometimes lying. But, the Trump we knew for over decade would come to all your book parties and all your events," Scarborough said. "And all he'd do is talk about you."

He also shared several positive encounters with Trump to illustrate the inconsistencies in his personality.

"This isn't to tell you that Donald Trump is doing a great job as President," he said. "This is to explain our frustration and how maddening it is that this guy has chosen the route he has chosen."

Brzezinski stated that she did not vote for Trump and doubted he would be a good president. She pointed out the difficulty of trying to report on him.

"We get maligned in the media for having a relationship with this president, but we're trying to cover [him]," he said. "We're trying to keep an open mind, we're trying to help, and it is one of the most frightening things we've seen in our political media careers."

Scarborough reflected on how viewers expressed their displeasure every time he said anything positive about Trump.

"It's not good for ratings," he said. "But we don't care because we've got a long term contract."

Scarborough argued that even though the country is politically divided, comparing Trump to an autocrat is not completely accurate.

"For people who thought that Donald Trump is going to be an autocrat, or a Nazi... for people who think that, look back over the last 60 days, and what's happened?" Scarborough asked.

He explained that Trump does not have absolute power. Scarborough pointed out that Trump's main executive

order was challenged by the judicial branch and that his health care bill was stymied by his own party. Scarborough cited an NBC poll from last month, which reported that even though 74 percent of Americans think the country is more politically divided than ever, 79 percent want their representatives to compromise.

During the question and answer segment, one audience member asked about how the lines have been blurred between journalism and entertainment in the mainstream media.

This led to a discussion about how political figures can affect the mainstream media. Brzezinski believes that there are many people on television who cannot say what they think.

"There are relationships and there are fears in the media that have been preyed upon and played upon by politicians," Brzezinski said. "I think it's why the media is in question and why Trump does have a little bit of a grab with people about fake news."

Another audience member asked why Trump was covered more by news outlets than Democratic presidential candidates like Senator Bernie Sanders or former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Scarborough and Brzezinski spoke about how some candidates were more open to media than others and how it was difficult to reach the Clinton campaign in particular.

"We had a landscape where a lot of candidates, including Hillary Clinton, were so locked in their boxes and so controlling," Brzezinski said. "Joe and I had to fly in a rickety plane and land on a dirt road in South Carolina to get 17 and a half minutes in the back of a school with Hillary Clinton."

Brzezinski said that the Clinton campaign actively worked to suppress any criticism

against it by *Morning Joe*.

"When I was saying the Clinton campaign was arrogant, they don't have this thing won, that they don't have a message and they haven't had one for two years, they did threaten me," she said. "They did call in. They did say she'd never do an interview with *Morning Joe* as long as we worked that way."

Brzezinski and Scarborough said that they gave every candidate the opportunity to come on their show and talk. However, they were aware that Trump knew how to control the media better than anyone.

"You go back, his statements, whether it was on John McCain or Megyn Kelly or Mexicans or whatever the insulting comment was, it was on a Friday and Saturday," Scarborough said. "It made the headlines on Sunday mornings. They talked about it on all the Sunday shows, which then set up the conversation for the week. By the time everybody caught up with what he said by Friday he was onto something different on Monday."

Another audience member brought up Trump's comments regarding sexual assault. Brzezinski said that even though his comments were horrendous, they were not surprised that his comments were not going to change the mind of his supporters.

"They were still going to vote for him," Brzezinski said. "They knew it all. And one of the reasons why they didn't care is that they feel they've seen this show before. It chips away at the moral code of our society — people are numb to it."

Another person in the audience asked how to break what he described as the "liberal bubble of the media." Brzezinski and Scarborough responded that liberals need to break out from the insular confines of their neighborhoods, schools and social circles.

"Liberals need to walk outside the bubble and go to America. And we're learning this the hard way," Brzezinski said.

Scarborough and Brzezinski concluded by taking questions about the effect of Trump's presidency on future political leaders and parties.

"I think we're in for a massive reset, politically and morally, in this country, and I'm seeing the backlash," Brzezinski said.

Scarborough responded by stressing that he was optimistic since the current climate will force people to reexamine what the nation's values

"I'm more optimistic than I've been in a long time, because we're forced to reexamine what this country's about, what we stand for," Scarborough said.

Scarborough predicted that America is going to have an independent president in the next 10 years, while Brzezinski challenged the women in the room to fight harder and think about running for office one day.

Freshman Sabin Karki came to the talk because he was interested in learning more about the mainstream media's opinion, given the current political climate. Specifically, he appreciated their candidness, especially regarding the Democratic party.

"MSNBC is traditionally regarded as a very liberal leaning news site, but what we heard today, especially from Mika, was the failings of the DNC in this last election cycle and how we need to have a re-evaluation, not only with our democratic principles, but the nation as a whole," Karki said.

Abigail Johnson, a freshman, came to the event because she recognized Scarborough and Brzezinski from television. Johnson enjoyed when they talked about which presidential campaigns were more open than others.

"I was really interested in that, and I feel like you can't really get that information anywhere else," Johnson said.

Freshman Cristian Aguirre came to the event because he and his parents have watched *Morning Joe* for years. Aguirre liked hearing Scarborough and Brzezinski discuss Trump's rhetoric.

"Because they both come from different political backgrounds, it was interesting to see how they could both reach a consensus about the general delivery of Trump, as opposed to the overdone commentary about his policies," Aguirre said.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE/PUBLIC DOMAIN

Joe Scarborough and Mika Brzezinski host former Secretary of State John Kerry on *Morning Joe*.

## Errata: April 6 Edition

In the April 6, 2017 edition of *The News-Letter*, SARU was incorrectly identified as the host of the event "Back to basics: Learning the truth about sexual assault and rape culture." The event was sponsored by the Dean of Student Life, the Counseling Center, the Office of Gender Equity, and the Center for Health Education & Wellness (CHEW).

*The News-Letter* regrets this error.



## NEWS &amp; FEATURES

## New initiative connects students to free food while reducing waste



There was a significant reduction in food waste after an event, as shown before students participated in the initiative (left) and afterwards (right).

COURTESY OF NEMO KELLER

**FOOD WASTE, FROM A1**  
Houser talked during the fall of 2016 to develop the program.

During the SOHOP trial run, students who were on the email list recieved a message informing them about the type and quantity of food available, where they could find that food and whether containers for leftovers were available.

During the pilot program, there were 624 students on the email list. As of press time, over 700 students have joined the list.

At SOHOP registration tables, Keller noted that there were initially nine full pizzas, eight two-liter bottles, five containers of salad, eight full bagels and two containers of cream cheese left over. Twenty-five minutes after she sent an email alert only a little salad remained.

At a lunch event, 89 percent of the sandwiches, 87.5 percent of the fruit and 77 percentage of the pasta salad were eaten instead of wasted after students arrived. Keller also recorded student feedback following the SOHOP pilot.

"100 percent of people who tried to participate in any of the events said that they thought the program should be scaled campus-wide to all catered events," she said. "We had 120 people reply to that survey."

Going forward, Keller and Houser are hoping to conduct more pilot programs to determine the best method for reducing food waste and alerting students about free food. During the SOHOP trial run, Keller obtained a schedule in advance from event organizers and sent the email alerts herself.

However, Keller emphasized that they are in the beginning stages of implementation and that they currently do not have a definite procedure for coordinating food waste efforts with event organizers.

Houser is optimistic that the program will continue to be successful in the future but said that adjustments may need to be made along the way.

"We may have to tweak how much time the food is available and what event planners will do," she said. "Are we going to use an app? An email distribution system? What are the logistics of getting the information out?"

In addition, they are looking into setting up a free food pantry or fridge for storing leftovers that are not initially picked up by students.

Keller acknowledged that students often want

more notices more in advance about when free food will become available so that they can adjust their own schedules.

However, she noted that the program must also consider the concerns of the event organizers.

"You have to understand that for an event organizer, the most important part is there is enough food for the guests and that the guests aren't disturbed," she said. "The whole program relies on the fact that we don't bother event organizers. If they see this as a burden, they would much rather throw out the food."

Keller pointed out the environmental impact of food waste. When food is disposed of in landfills, it can contribute to the creation of methane, a greenhouse gas.

She said that reducing food waste is good for the environment and

requires the efforts of all students.

"Each individual has a responsibility when it comes to food waste," Keller said. "When we all individually waste food, collectively it adds up really quickly."

Houser added that, while food waste remediation efforts are beneficial, students should also make an effort not to create waste in the first place.

"Eliminating the generation of waste from the beginning is going to have much greater environmental and health impacts than recycling or composting it," she said.

"There are so many inputs — energy, greenhouse gas emissions. So the biggest footprint that food has is all upstream."

Divya Korada, a sophomore, praised the program. She is a member of Real Food Hopkins, a group that seeks to bring local, sustainable and humane food to campus.

"As a student, it's just nice to have access to free food," she said. "It's cool to be able to get alerts so if you're hungry or want to get good food, you can stop by. From a sustainability perspective, it's a good initiative. I'm surprised we didn't have it before."

She noted that reducing food waste requires a conscious effort on behalf of all individuals, especially those organizing events.

"People who run student events should be mindful of the amount of food they order and try to estimate it more accurately," she said. "They should try to have a backup plan for what will happen if they do have a lot of food leftover."

Sophomore Rose Olekuyan thought the program was a good idea but could

see the potential for some issues. Olekuyan sees the benefit of reducing food waste, but worries that the initiative could lead to disorderly crowds and tension between students.

She is also concerned that free food notifications may distract students.

"If people are getting alerted in class, then they may pretend to go to the bathroom, go get the free food and then come back," she said. "The [leftover] food could also just go to people in the vicinity, like security guards and staff, not necessarily Hopkins students."

**"Each individual has a responsibility when it comes to food waste."**

— NEMO KELLER, ORGANIZER

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# JHU Celebrates National Student Employment Week '17

Excellence - Dedication - Outstanding  
(Words that define our student employees)



Jennifer Aufill  
Undergraduate Winner



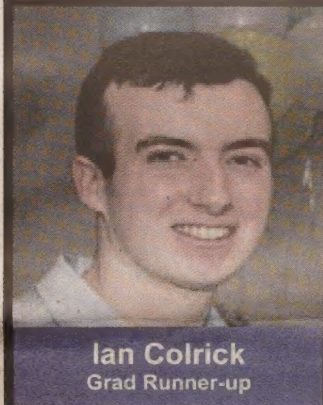
Erin Hunter  
Graduate Winner

**Congratulations to all of this year's nominees!**

- |                  |                         |                     |
|------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Jennifer Aufill  | Folake Ishola           | Aleena Nasir        |
| Keenan Caswell   | Amanda Jan              | Hannah Ranft        |
| Conan Chen       | Darin Johnson           | Erica Schwarz       |
| Helena Chung     | Tushar Jois             | Julia Soto          |
| Ian Colrick      | Eleanor Layfield        | Marie Spiker        |
| Lucy Delgado     | David Levi              | Patrick Tilson      |
| Victoria Fang    | Eric Morgan             | Amelia Voos         |
| Audrey Garman    | Hallie Morgan-Rodriguez | Tyana Warren        |
| Cristina Garrido | Danielle Naassana       | Qian Dai (Della) Xu |
| Erin Hunter      | Aleena Nasir            | Kristina Zambo      |
|                  |                         | Corina Zisman       |



Graduate Nominees  
Student Employee of the Year



Ian Colrick  
Grad Runner-up



David Levi  
Grad Runner-up



Erica Schwarz  
Undergrad Runner-up



Victoria Fang  
Undergrad Runner-up



Abby Neyenhouse  
Supervisor of the Year



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## VOICES

Hopkins is a diverse university, where an incredible mix of cultures, academic interests and personalities coexist and thrive...

## Leaving Club Penguin and becoming an adult



**Sudgie Ma**  
New Game

Even though it's been almost four months since I turned 18, I still don't feel like an adult — not at all, really. In fact, I haven't noticed any change in my personal maturity since I was 16 or maybe 14.

Eighteen is just such an arbitrary number to mark the entry point into adulthood. I always think that something's just wrong when I'm signing a form and don't need to get parental consent, especially because I'm just as dependent as I've always been.

Although I don't exactly accept myself as an adult, it seems like the world has. It's moved on and left me behind, telling me, "too bad, you are an adult now, things are changing." Most recently, the biggest indication that my childhood is over has been the shutdown of Club Penguin.

Club Penguin was one of my favorite online games, besides Neopets and Gaia Online. The latter two are still around, though shadows of their former glorious selves. Their main player base has grown up, and they haven't been able to attract many newer ones.

Club Penguin had also been going through a slump for the past few years, but I never actually expected the game to close down; I took its stay for granted much like the enduring presence of other online games.

As I think about why, even now as an 18 year old, I have such a love for these games, I realize there is a very similar thread running through all of them. As the player, you lead a virtual life in a world with minimal suffering.

When trouble did eventually come to these worlds, you could take up quests to fix them yourself. They're a lot like other games that target young audiences. In *Pokémon*, for instance, a literal 10-year-old can save the entire world from destruction.

But there's something that separates games like Club Penguin from other childhood classics: It's the online aspect. You would be playing with other people all the time and building a community together.

Club Penguin was particularly magical in that regard. There were over a dozen servers, many of which would be full or otherwise extremely active, no matter what time I logged onto the site. Within the game's world, whether I was going to the ski mountain or the secret agent HQ, there were always other penguins at my destination.

It was extremely easy to make friends and get invitations to hang out at other penguins' igloos.

Even in real life, Club Penguin facilitated friendships. If someone started playing the game in the computer lab, everyone would soon gather around and follow suit.

In fact, Club Penguin was almost cultish in my elementary and middle schools. The game had a large paywall in the form of a paid membership to access most features, including things as simple as dressing your penguin.

This meant we had to make a constant investment of our own allowance in order to play to the fullest extent, and those of us playing were forced to stay glued to the site even when the missions or penguin fashion catalogs had gotten stale.

After all, we'd all sacrificed money we could've spent at the ice cream truck after school. The thought process was that we might as well make the most out of it.

So make the most out of it I did. I got extremely good at some of the minigames, like crafting pizzas for penguins in order to earn virtual coins to buy out entire catalogs. Club Penguin helped me feel like a star when I'd go to school the next day and be able to brag about how I'd made my igloo look like a mansion straight out of Beverly Hills.

Now, I wonder what kind of games the new generation of kids is even growing up with, as sites like Club Penguin, which were so complete and well-rounded that they kept me absorbed for years on end, are no longer around. Are they just playing Candy Crush on their phones?

The fact that I'm even wondering what all the kids are doing nowadays must be a testament to my coming-of-age.

I guess I really am an adult now. I definitely don't belong to this younger generation, since the hallmarks of my childhood, like Club Penguin, have been cut out of it.

## Why Supergirl has relationship trouble



**Catherine Palmer**  
Catwoman

Let me first say that I'm a fan of *Supergirl*. The show, which tells the story of 24-year-old Kara Zor-El, Superman's cousin, made history when it premiered in October 2015 as DC's only female-led superhero TV show. It offers a refreshing portrait of female strength and vulnerability.

Despite a drop in viewership after moving from CBS to The CW for season two, the show has garnered more critical acclaim this year. Leading lady Melissa Benoist has also been able to participate in six fan-favorite crossover episodes with fellow DC-CW shows, helping to establish a solid fan base, at least among CW viewers.

That being said, there are two aspects of the show that I have issues with. The writers and producers still don't seem to have gotten the hang of writing Kara's romantic relationships (which I'll discuss this week) and her career path (which I'll take on in my next column). If left unresolved, these issues will continue weakening the show as it enters season three next fall.

Much of season one focused on a blossoming relationship between Kara, an assistant at CatCo Worldwide Media, and her colleague James Olsen (Mehcad Brooks), a photographer and close friend of her cousin. From the start, it was apparent that the relationship was built on Kara's infatuation with James.

They developed a nice friendship as he helped her behind the scenes with her 'superheroing,' but their romance felt very forced. In fact, the backlash from fans was so strong that after they finally got together at the end of season one, Kara ended things with whip-lash-inducing speed in the

second season's premiere.

Next, there is Kara's new relationship with Mon-El (Chris Wood), a fellow alien whose home planet Daxam was destroyed in the wake of the explosion of Krypton, Kara's home planet. He crash landed on Earth in an escape pod at the end of last season and has proven so far to be a disturbingly persistent thorn in Kara's side.

Initially, his presence brings out an interestingly unflattering aspect of Kara: prejudice. Daxamites and Kryptonites historically never got along, and Kara at first refuses to see Mon-El as anything other than an inferior. Kara soon realizes her error and takes him under her wing, determined to help the former party boy use his powers for good.

But then history repeats itself. The show forces another romance to develop that is even worse than the one between Kara and James.

James was initially protective of Kara to the point that it made her feel like he didn't have faith she could hold her own as a superhero. That issue got resolved by the third episode, though, and from then on, James was nothing but supportive.

Mon-El, on the other hand, week in and week out is doubtful and disrespectful of Kara. He doesn't follow her instructions in the field. He outs their relationship when she explicitly asks him not to. He lies about his identity as the Prince of Daxam, fearful that Kara will reject him.

It's a cycle of Mon-El being an ass and Kara inexplicably forgiving him that the show only seems to have broken in its most recent episode: When Mon-El shows true concern for Kara, he sacrifices his happiness on Earth to take his place as prince of the Daxamites' new home planet in order to protect Kara from his vengeful, Kryptonian-hating mother.

Kara ended up rescu-

ing him, so maybe now they can finally start building a healthy relationship. But I still struggle to understand why Kara has stuck with him for so long to begin with and why she needs a romantic relationship at all right now. It's not within her nature to have one-night stands, but that doesn't mean she needs a new boyfriend every five seconds either.

It's really the relationship between Kara and her older, adoptive sister Alex (Chyler Leigh) that carried the show through its first season. Alex's parents took Kara in after she arrived on Earth at the age of 12. However, it was their 14-year-old daughter who was in charge of taking care of her and making sure she didn't put herself in danger by exposing her powers.

In the pilot episode, Kara did just that in order to save Alex and her fellow passengers from dying in a plane crash. That save inspired her

to don the cape, much to Alex's chagrin. Alex soon came around and let Kara team up with her at the Department of Extranormal Operations (DEO), where she had secretly been working for the past few years, helping protect Earth from dangerous alien threats.

Kara and Alex's bond is inspiring, strong and beautiful, and it is made possible by Benoist and Leigh's real-life sisterly chemistry and affection for one another. Kara may be National City's superhero, but she is also Alex's little sister.

One issue that the show addressed well was Alex's struggle to find herself outside of Kara's influence on her life. Since Kara's arrival, Alex has acted as a single mom to her, sacrificing having a life of her own in order to always be there for Kara.

But when the show picks up, Alex is a 26-year-old still using her adult sister as an excuse not to put herself out there. Kara made Alex promise at the end of season one that she would "find love and

be happy... and do all the things that being [Kara's] sister kept [her] from doing."

The show delivered on that promise this season with Alex experiencing a revelation about her sexuality and developing a relationship with police detective Maggie Sawyer (Floriana Lima). Their care and respect for one another has definitely made the relationship a highlight of season two. The only downside is that it has started to overshadow the relationship between Kara and Alex.

While it is absolutely necessary for Alex to develop a life outside of Kara, Kara and Alex were the heart of the show, and their heavily diminished one-on-one screen time this season is disappointing. I'm not saying, by any means, that Alex and Maggie's relationship should be put on the back burner. But Kara and Alex's relationship should at least be getting an equal amount of the limelight.

Neither LGBT+ relationships nor platonic, positive female relationships are explored nearly as meaningfully or as often as heterosexual romantic relationships are on TV. *Supergirl* has the opportunity to explore both, but it should not allow either one to come at the expense of the other.

The show is going to need to be careful in how it continues to develop relationships in its third season if it wants to continue showcasing realistic interactions between women.

As for the show's romantic storylines, it should look to *The Flash* and *Arrow* as examples and take the time to craft a relationship that is built first and foremost on friendship and develops organically across multiple seasons, one that viewers can invest in, like between Barry Allen (Grant Gustin) and Iris West (Candice Patton) or Oliver Queen (Stephen Amell) and Felicity Smoak (Emily Bett Rickards).

The slow burn is a time-honored tradition for a reason. If *Supergirl* writers and producers want Kara to continue flying on TV, they shouldn't be afraid to let her fly solo.

## Get ready for Sylvan Esso to release new album, What Now



**Hayley Bronner**  
Rising Ambitions

Order isn't always better. Recently formed indie pop duo, Sylvan Esso, just started making music in 2013, but their immediate success is astounding.

Singer Amelia Meath and producer Nick Sanborn met at the Cactus Club in Milwaukee, Wis., but both were involved in other projects at the time. According to an article on Partisan Records' website, When Meath asked Sanborn to remix one of her singles, "Play It Right," Sanborn "sensed

that there was something more important here than a one-time handoff." They knew that magic had sparked.

When Meath and Sanborn both landed in Durham, N.C. not too long after, they knew that they needed to make music together. They started recording singles in Sanborn's bedroom in Durham and soon had a debut studio album completed, which was released on May 12, 2014 from Partisan Records. In the same article, they referred to the album as a "collection of vivid addictions concerning suffering and love, darkness and deliverance." The project took off.

The self-titled album reached No. 39 on the *Billboard* 200 and No. 7 on the Independent Albums chart. The success gave their songs considerable airplay in the United States, so their fame only grew. In August of 2015, Sylvan Esso released "Ja-

mie's Song" as a tribute to a story about bipolar disorder. In September of 2016, they released more singles, "Radio" and "Kick Jump Twist," but their most recent works are the remixes of both of these songs by Atlanta-based artist Demo Taped.

These remixes lead up to the release of their second album, *What Now*, which will be released on April 28. This will be a moment for the books as Meath and Sanborn come together once again, blending their unique styles to make something absolutely beautiful.

While we wait for *What Now*, I suggest putting their remixes of "Radio" and "Kick Jump Twist" on repeat. They're the perfect melodies for any mood and activity and leave us wanting more from Sylvan Esso. You can find the remixes on SoundCloud.

Sylvan Esso is starting a new tour this spring in Berlin, Germany, though

quickly coming back to the United States and stopping in Baltimore on May 16! Need a study break and an exciting night out? They will be at Ram's Head Live performing with Lucy Dacus. What could be a better way to spend time away from Brody?

This will be an espe-

cially long tour for the band, lasting until September 30 and ending in their home base of North Carolina, so show them some love when they come to Baltimore! Stay updated on their happenings by following them on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. See you at the concert!



COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL MUSIC GROUP  
Sylvan Esso's new album, *What Now*, is coming out on April 28.



## VOICES

Here is the section where you can publish your unique thoughts, ideas and perspectives on life at Hopkins and beyond.

## Steps to being a bad roommate

As we move into the end of spring semester, many of us find ourselves in new rooming situations. Need to force your roommate to move out in order to get your make your McCoy experience a little less awful, or are you just simply a terrible person? Doesn't matter. Through this series of simple steps, I can teach you how to be the worst roommate possible.

- 1. Their space is your space:** Occasionally find the time to host a study group on their bedroom floor. Make sure all the friends you do this with have a passion for heavy metal music and have only a vague understanding of volume control.
- 2. Anything in the fridge is fair game:** It's simple; eat their food. This one is perhaps the most fun to carry out.
- 3. Turn your house into a green house:** Fill your space with a variety of (legal) plants, and make sure to stop taking care of them at some point during the year, forcing the responsibility on to your roommate. If you want to go the extra step, you can also occasionally infest the apartment with ladybugs to "deal with your aphid problem."
- 4. Never bathe:** Though easy to carry out, this step is only for the truly dedicated. After about a month of letting your personal hygiene decline, they should start being able to smell you from their room. Then you know you've won.

## My experience at the big fat Indian wedding



**Diva Parekh**  
*Copy Queen*

Over spring break, my cousin got married. It was terrifying, really, because I'm at the point in my life where people come up to me at the wedding and go, "You're next," in their sing-song old-people voices and smirk at me while I shove food into my face so I don't have to respond.

This wedding was what you'd call a big fat Indian wedding, but in California, with four events spread out over multiple days. Of course, four events means four different outfits that my parents brought over all the way from India because, although the wedding is in California, one must wear Indian clothes from India. Logical, I know.

Needless to say, none of these outfits involved any kind of sweatpants, so I was not able to achieve my goal of wearing nothing but sweatpants for all of spring break.

On the first day, we wake up early to go to the prayer meeting. My younger cousins and I sit in a row watching while the priest guy chants things in a language only our grandmother understands and then proceeds to throw symbolic things into a fire.

Then we get called up to the front to throw some kind of brown powder into the bowl but not in the fire. Of course, this is me we're talking about, so where

does it actually go? Smack in the middle of the fire. So guys, if you have bad luck during your marriage, learn your lesson. Never make me throw things within five feet of a fire.

That night was the *sangeet*, which is basically the excuse old Indian people use to party hard before the wedding day. Let's just say I ended up sitting in a corner with my 87-year-old grandmother while we frowned at the antics of all of her children.

On separate occasions, people tried to drag the both of us out to the dance floor, and I used my falling-off-horse injury to dramatically hold my knee and say no while the Bollywood music thumped around me.

Somehow, the next morning, all these people made it out to the wedding. Before it started, my aunt came up to us and told us about this Indian tradition where if someone on the bride's side (which we were) grabs the groom's shoes, then we get to ask him for anything we want.

My broke college bank account said go for it, and so I did. Little groups of us formed, and I enlisted some of the bride's sister's friends to commit the great heist. The plan was set. We just had to wait for the groom.

So traditionally, the groom enters in a thing called a *baaraat*, which is him on a horse surrounded by a dancing throng of his family and friends, while the bride's family waits to greet him at the entrance. Let's not get me started on why the groom's side gets to have all the fun.

It was just slightly impractical for them to get a horse, a fact for which I was thankful since I naturally now think all horses are the enemy (read: since



COURTESY OF DIVA PAREKH  
Diva and family celebrate successfully grabbing the groom's shoes.

I was thrown off a horse). Instead, the groom arrived on a motorcycle, and the bride's family, rightfully, salty that they didn't get to dance, started dancing while waiting for him.

The two families met, and then we went into the wedding hall. All the while, my eyes were glued to the shoes. I had my eye on those hundred bucks I was going to ask for.

We tried jumping him while he was walking towards the *mandap*, which is the stage on which the actual wedding happens. His family was protecting the shoes so well, though, that we failed quite miserably.

By the time the actual wedding started, I was already quite crabby because I thought I'd lost my chance at \$100. So throughout the ceremony, I had an endless snark-stream going through my head.

At some point, the priest guy's making them repeat their vows after him, and to the bride he goes, "Promise you will always make him happy." She says yes. Then to the groom he says, "Promise you will always try to make her happy. Because it's the woman's job to make the man happy; The

man can only try."

My head may have exploded a little bit, after which I dramatically self-promised that I would never have a traditional Indian wedding, so ha ha to all the "You're next" people.

Right as the bride and groom were about to start taking wedding photos, we tripped the groom up and grabbed his shoes. I didn't get \$100, but I did get \$20, which I will use to fuel my caffeine addiction.

Soon it was time for the last event of the wedding, the reception — where you mingle. Mingling involves being introduced to people I don't know who go, "Oh wow you've grown." Actually, random person, that is not true. I have not grown since the eighth grade, a fact I am quite resentful of.

Here's one I hadn't heard before, "So you're studying medicine, I hope," to which I grinned like a maniac, went "NOPE," only to walk away in the direction of the food.

The food. There was a dessert room, which was a room with multiple dessert bars. I'm going to say nothing more. That, that made it all worth it.

## Ways you can celebrate National Poetry Month



**Morgan Ome & Audrey Holt**  
*Couch Conversations*

One couch, two couch, red couch, blue couch...

To couch or not to couch, that is the question...

**Morgan:** Speaking of high-class literature, T.S. Eliot, in his poem, "The Waste Land," wrote that "April is the cruellest month." Well, Eliot, April is also National Poetry Month. This week, we're going to share some ways you can celebrate and engage with poetry in and around Baltimore.

**Audrey:** Breeding lilacs out of the dead land, mixing memory and... Oh, hi. Sorry, did someone say "April is the cruellest month"? I just ran with it. But, oh my, look at the time, is it really April already? National Poetry Month is here!

National Poetry Month is organized by the American Academy of Poets (check them out at poets.

org), and you can use their website to find all sorts of fantastically poetic events across the country.

**M:** You don't even have to venture too far to celebrate poetry. There are a lot of events happening in the city this month.

On Tuesday, April 25, the Enoch Pratt Free Library is hosting a reading by two Maryland-based poets (including Elizabeth Hazen, who graduated from the Writing Seminars program). It's great to support local, contemporary poets, so definitely check this event out.

On Saturday, April 29, Red Emma's is hosting my favorite event of the year: the Baltimore Youth Poetry Grand Slam. It's an evening full of creative energy and raw emotion where 12 teenagers perform original poems. They will be competing to represent Baltimore at the 20th Annual Brave New Voices International Youth Poetry Slam Festival this summer.

I went to this event last year and was blown away by the passion and poise of all the poets. Though they're young, the performances are often intense and steeped in social and

political issues. Make sure to get there early; Seating is limited, and the bookstore will most likely be jam packed.

**A:** Sounds awesome. For those of you willing to travel, on Thursday, April 20th, Claudia Rankine and Nathaniel Mackey will be accepting the Bobbitt National Prize for Poetry at the Library of Congress down in D.C.

The prize honors Rankine's book, *Citizen: An American Lyric*, and Mackey's lifetime achievement. The reading will be free and open to the public at the James Madison Memorial Building. (It's walking distance from Union Station!)

**M:** If you can't make it to any of these events, there are still ways to interact with poetry on your own. Print out your favorite poems (or some of your own!) or grab a poetry anthology and host a casual reading with friends.

Keeping with the idea of celebrating local poets, you could always take part in a dramatic reading of "The Raven" by Edgar Allan Poe, but also check out Lucille Clifton and Linda Pastan, who were

former Poet Laureates of Maryland.

**A:** So, why is all this important? Why are we telling you not just to go out and read some poems but to go drag yourself out of bed and off the couch to listen to them? Well, because listening to poetry is simply something else. Sadly I can't prove this to you here, through text and on paper, but think about it.

I'm not condemning reading printed poems — far from it — but let's not forget that poetry started out as a spoken art.

Here's the thing: Hearing a poem you've never heard before recited across a laden brunch table and a mostly empty mimosa pitcher, you're kept in suspense of the shape of the poem, which is immediately evident on the page.

You have to hear the rhyme scheme rather than just to see the repeated -ation, -ation, -ation, and wait for the sound to follow.

When you get to the last lines, where the poet takes your world apart for a minute, you don't have to split your mind between parsing the punctuation and line breaks, you can just let yourself understand what the art has achieved.



# the johns hopkins NEWS-LETTER

## Editorials

### Free Food at JHU offers sustainable solution to campus food waste

Free Food at JHU, a new food waste initiative, recently launched a pilot version of its program on campus that informs Hopkins students about leftover food after events. The initiative, started by recent graduate Nemo Keller and the Office of Sustainability, sends email and text message alerts with the amount of food left over and its location.

Students must sign up for the program to receive these alerts. The pilot program was run during SOHOP on April 5. The primary goals of this program are to reduce food waste and encourage sustainability at Hopkins.

The Editorial Board commends this program and its dedication to reducing food waste, especially given the number of events on campus that use food to encourage turnout. This initiative is another step toward becoming a more environmentally friendly and sustainable campus, something that

we care deeply about. We commend Keller and the Office of Sustainability for working hard to get this program started.

Initiatives like Free Food at JHU are a part of a greater trend worldwide. For instance, the French National Assembly passed a law in May 2015 banning French supermarkets from disposing of unsold food and instead requiring them to donate the leftover food to charities or animal shelters. The legislation has two aims: to encourage sustainability in the food industry and to assist those suffering from hunger.

While Free Food at JHU is a good start, there is more work to be done. As similar laws and initiatives to reduce food waste become more common, Baltimore and the United States should all consider adopting policies that improve efficiency. And because these initiatives are cheap, convincing Americans that they are

a good idea will be relatively easy. No one likes to waste food.

In Baltimore, food deserts, or areas in which healthy food is unavailable, are common. Residents of these areas suffer from malnutrition at a higher rate than Baltimoreans living in other parts of the city. Food waste programs are absolutely critical to ensuring that residents throughout Baltimore have access to quality food.

The Editorial Board wishes Keller and the Office of Sustainability luck on their trial run and hopes to see it become finalized in the coming months. We would also like to see this initiative become a major presence on campus, and we encourage all students to sign up to receive the alerts.

We hope that this program will encourage the administration to make reducing food waste a priority at Hopkins and to consider how they can address the food desert crisis in Baltimore.

### SGA election's high voter turnout is a sign of progress

Student Government Association (SGA) Executive Board elections took place over the weekend and drew a noticeably larger voter turnout. Last year, 1,371 voters participated in executive board elections, triple that of the previous year's turnout. This year, the trend away from apathy continued, and 1,421 undergraduates cast their vote.

Additionally, despite having two candidates for executive president instead of last year's three, abstentions and write-ins were down nearly 70 percent.

The Editorial Board commends both the HopForward and New Horizons tickets for running positive campaigns based on solid platforms. Students felt inspired to vote because they had two full tickets of qualified

candidates to choose between. This bodes well for the future of SGA. Competition is a critical part of any truly democratic process, even those as basic as student body elections.

We commend students for taking their civic responsibility seriously and taking an active role in the future of SGA. If students do not vote, they lose an opportunity to have an impact on campus life and undermine their right to criticize their own student government.

Voter turnout is on an upward trajectory, and we hope that it continues to follow this trend. We encourage students to run for SGA positions, to keep voting and to stay politically active at Hopkins in general. The Editorial Board calls on all students to keep engaged and hold our represen-

tatives accountable for the promises that they have made. The News-Letter will, of course, always strive to do this, but we need your voices as well.

An information session about the upcoming SGA class council elections was held last night, and an additional session will be held tonight at 7 p.m. in Hodson 210. We strongly encourage anyone at all interested in running for a senator position to attend in order to get a better understanding of the election process and what being a member of SGA entails.

Voting for class council elections will run from Friday, April 21, to Monday, April 24. The Editorial Board hopes that voter turnout for senate elections will be just as strong as that of the executive board election this year.

## LETTERS & OP-ED POLICY

*The News-Letter* encourages letters to the editor and op-eds. *The Johns Hopkins News-Letter* reserves the sole right to edit all op-ed pieces and/or letters to the editor for space, grammar, clarity, accuracy and style. This applies to the body of the submission as well as its headline. Upon approval for publication, all op-eds and letters to the editor become property of *The News-Letter*. *The News-Letter* reserves the right to not publish any op-ed or letter to the editor for any reason, at the sole discretion of the Editors-in-Chief. Letters to the editor are limited to 250 words, must address content previously published in *The News-Letter*, and must include the author's name, address and phone number. Letters must be received by 5 p.m. Monday for inclusion in that week's issue; they should be sent to [chiefs@jhunewsletter.com](mailto:chiefs@jhunewsletter.com) (with "Letter to the editor" in the subject line) or the mailing address below. To write an op-ed, contact [opinions@jhunewsletter.com](mailto:opinions@jhunewsletter.com). Op-eds are not limited in their length except as available space may dictate. All submissions may be published online as well as in the paper, and no anonymous submissions will be accepted.

Submittal of an op-ed and/or letter to the editor acknowledges your acceptance of and agreement to these policies. Any questions about these policies should be directed to the Editors-in-Chief of *The News-Letter* at [chiefs@jhunewsletter.com](mailto:chiefs@jhunewsletter.com).

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*The Johns Hopkins News-Letter* is published every Thursday during the academic year by the undergraduate students of The Johns Hopkins University with the exception of holidays, exam periods and vacations. The views expressed herein, including opinions and columns, do not necessarily represent those of the editorial board. All submissions become property of *The News-Letter* and will be included on *The News-Letter's* website, [www.jhunewsletter.com](http://www.jhunewsletter.com).

Business hours are Mondays through Fridays, 1-5 p.m. The deadline for advertisements is 5 p.m. on the Monday before the Thursday of publication. The total circulation to the local campuses of Johns Hopkins (Homewood, Medical School and Hospital, Peabody), area colleges and the greater Baltimore region is 5,000.

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## Errata: April 6 Edition

In the April 6, 2017 edition of *The News-Letter*, the editorial originally stated that the FIJI Islander restricted those under 21 from attending the event, due to unclear language in the original SGA bill itself. The event is open to all members of the Johns Hopkins community.

*The News-Letter* regrets this error.



# OPINIONS

With the exception of editorials, the opinions expressed here are those of the contributors. They are not necessarily those of The Johns Hopkins News-Letter.

## New guidelines violate our right to protest We need spaces to foster open discussion at Hopkins

By CONCERNED STUDENT GROUPS

The University administration released new “Guidelines for Free Expression” last week “to serve as a resource to you as you consider acts of public expression” on and around campus. While it is unclear which policies outlined in the document are new and which are compiled from old statutes, what is clear is that these “guidelines” are merely restrictions on our freedoms re-branded as “resources” and “support.”

The document begins by saying: “We do recognize that the creation of guidelines can be perceived as antithetical to the spirit of free expression” — but this is not just an issue of perception. The guidelines are, in fact, antithetical to the supposed goals of academic and political freedom.

The University is asserting its “ability” to restrict the “time, place, and manner of events” related to free expression. The guidelines threaten the use of these restrictions for “intentional disruption of currently occurring expression” and “intentional disruption of teaching, research, administration, and/or other educational activities at the University” — though it makes clear that these are not the only reasons these controls will be used.

The first case, known as counter-protesting, is a powerful and necessary tool that we, as students, have to express ourselves. Actions such as protests against the anti-choice propaganda that frequently plagues our quads as well as disruptions of the reactionary speakers currently touring the country would be constrained under this rule. Our freedom of expression is based on our ability to disagree. Restricting our rights to voice this dissent hinders, not supports, our freedoms.

Moreover, the inclusion of the clause threatening restrictions of actions which disrupt “administration... activities at the University” is a clear attempt to quash the provocative protests against the administration that have grown in number and size over the past three years. The clear imbalance of power between students fighting for change and the University administration can only begin to be equalized when we have the right of unfettered access to our administrators.

Disrupting administrators is not only a consequence of many freedom-of-expression actions, it is many times the entire purpose of them. We have seen time and again (e.g. the BSU protests in 2015, the fossil fuel divestment and pro-Humanities Center actions in 2016 and the SLAC protests now) that our voices are only heard when we force them to be heard. This often involves the “disruption of administration activities” that would now be considered in breach of these so-called guidelines.

These restrictions also make clear that “non-affiliates” do not have the same access to these (now-restricted) rights to protest on campus. With a University that has as big of a (often destructive) footprint in Baltimore as ours does, the limits placed on the rights of non-affiliates to work with students to enact change is disheartening. Further, while the document lists groups of people that are explicitly considered affiliates, noticeably missing from this group are contract workers.

This is paired with statements by administrators over the course of the SLAC conflict that have expressed “fear” at the presence of “non-affiliates” that are “not required to follow the same code of conduct.” This further raises concerns that these “guidelines” are nothing more than an attempt to pacify the expressions of discontent that

many groups currently have towards the administration.

To comply with these constraints, the document dictates that “students and/or student organizations who seek to engage in acts of free expression should reserve available spaces and coordinate the planning of events” with proper administrators and that “during the activity, participants should consider the advice, perspective, and guidance of the administrative liaisons.”

These recommendations would diminish the capacity of students to organize and express themselves, especially when the actions are purposefully targeting the administration. Informing administrators of the intentions of protests only serves to give ample time to prepare for potential confrontation or, as we have seen time and again, flee to avoid interacting with students altogether.

We call on the administration to amend these guidelines. In their current form, they are no more than restrictions on our rights and freedoms dressed up with a dystopian title. Moreover, we encourage all students and student organizations planning actions designed to push the administration for change to reject these guidelines and recommendations. In the words of Martin Luther King, Jr.: “Protest beyond the law is not a departure from democracy; it is absolutely essential to it.”

Signed,  
Hopkins Students for a Democratic Society (SDS),  
JHU Black Student Union (BSU),  
Refuel Our Future,  
Voice for Choice (VfC),  
Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP),  
Students for Environmental Action (SEA),  
Diverse Sexuality and Gender Alliance (DSAGA),  
Sexual Assault Resource Unit (SARU),  
Hopkins Feminists



ANICET-CHARLES GABRIEL LEMONNIER/PUBLIC DOMAIN  
Salon de Madame Geoffrin (1812) depicts participation in an Enlightenment-era salon.

By NANCY WANG

We need to bring back salons. Although nights of reading about Trump led me to this conclusion, I can assure you, it has nothing to do with his hair. Actually, I’m not even talking about hair salons. I’m talking about the Enlightenment kind of salon.

If your knowledge of early modern European history has grown a bit hairy, here’s a basic rundown. During the Enlightenment, people, often women seeking to further their education, hosted salons as a way of exchanging ideas and learning more about various topics. More significantly, these salons were key to breaking social barriers, enabling people of different social statuses and sexes to come together and discuss as equals.

That’s what I find most fascinating about the concept of salons. They were places where

people could leave their everyday realms and enter another, where a rough draft of an idea could be developed and shared amongst many people of different backgrounds.

Especially as the Trump administration threatens to divide us, I firmly believe that it is ever more important to rebuild this platform of free conversation. That’s because the opposite of a salon is a bubble. Bubbles obstruct us from understanding each other and instead construct walls of apathy or indifference toward the people outside of them.

I am guilty of this. This past semester, I found myself standing at the pro-life table during the Student Involvement Fair. My first thought was not to learn more about the pro-life club. Unfortunately, it was more like, “Wait a minute. I’m pro-choice, though! What have I gotten myself into?” I then proceeded to flee from the table.

Fortunately, I was able to re-encounter the Hopkins Voice for Life club later on in the semester and learn more about their perspective and (hopefully) regain some of my dignity. For a long time, however, I wondered why my immediate reaction to seeing a pro-life group was not one of acceptance but of fight-or-flight.

Though I’ve run away from many things in life (e.g. my problems), I found it hard to reconcile the fact that I would run away from someone just because I didn’t identify with their opinions or know anything about what they did. By definition, a fight-or-flight response only happens when we feel threatened or under attack. In a world where we are predisposed to associating with people with similar views as us, has meeting even one person with opposing beliefs become so radical as to be perceived as a threat?

It’s okay if you are guilty of this too. Dissolving tensions between contrasting opinions only happens when we recognize that our increasingly sheltered opinions are an issue. Even on campus, we can voice and broaden our perspectives by joining organizations like IDEAL or attending discussions and forums of diverse points of view. Following the results of the SGA executive board election, I am optimistic that under New Horizons, programs for civic engagement and inclusion will only improve in the future.

Each day, we wake up as human beings. We don’t get to choose that; It’s simply who we are. But we can choose to be human. We can choose to appreciate, to understand, to respect and to love others. So be bold in discussing your opinions, and be open to accepting others’ opinions too. Because behind every idea, opinion and thought is one of us.

## The U.S. should grant international adoptees citizenship

By CATHERINE PALMER

Imagine coming to the United States as a baby, the adopted child of American parents. You grow up as an American. You never visit your birth country. You don’t speak any language besides English. Now imagine you’re adult trying to do something as routine as applying for a passport. Your application gets rejected. Why? Because it turns out you are not an American citizen. You never have been.

That’s the exact situation thousands of people adopted overseas are now finding themselves in. For decades, American parents adopting foreign-born children assumed that their children had automatically been granted American citizenship through the adoption process. Before 2000, however,

that was not the case.

According to *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, which broke the news last week, the law was changed that year in order to accommodate a large influx of children being adopted from China, Russia and Guatemala. Per the Child Citizenship Act, all foreign-born children now automatically become American citizens during the adoption process. When it was enacted, the act also grandfathered in children who had been adopted before 2000 but only those under the age of 18. Thus, an estimated 30,000 adoptees were left in the lurch.

According to *The Inquirer*, some of the adoptees are legal residents who are seeking to obtain citizenship. But many, now in their 30s, 40s and 50s, live under the radar. They are afraid to travel outside the country, not willing to take the risk that they

won’t be let back in, especially now, under Trump’s presidency. After all, despite being the children of American citizens, they have exactly the same legal status as undocumented immigrants and are subject to deportation at any time.

The fact that the gap hasn’t been addressed and corrected by any president in the past 17 years is a travesty. Talking about immigration can be divisive and complicated. But surely, we don’t actually need to debate whether the adult adoptive children of American citizens should really be considered Americans, right?

According to *The Inquirer*, a bill granting blanket citizenship to all international adoptees has already been presented to Congress but is stuck in committee hearings. The bill was drafted by the Adoptee Rights Campaign (ARC), an advocacy agency. Frustrated by the bureaucratic red tape, the group is currently working to revise the bill and present it using a “more aggressive strategy.”

ARC leader Angela Bennett herself was a victim of the Child Citizenship Act loophole, according to *The Inquirer*. She finally became a citizen this past fall, seven years after she discovered her undocumented status by accident and began the arduous legal process of applying for citizenship.

Another woman, Denise, who asked *The Inquirer* not to print her last name, lived in limbo for nearly 20 years. She was born in Vietnam and adopted by an American military family as the war was coming to an end. She grew up a soc-

cer- and lacrosse-playing Jersey girl and discovered her status while applying to become a cop in Philly. She finally became a citizen last spring after spending almost her entire adult life in fear of being arrested and sent back to a country she had no memory of.

“The whole process has been so traumatizing and stressful,” she told *The Inquirer*. “Becoming a citizen has been the best thing that has ever happened to me.”

The federal government needs to fix this problem, and they need to fix it now. It is unacceptable that people who have grown up as Americans, the children of Americans, face deportation from their true home country just because they happen to have been born overseas before 1982. In an age in which the definition of being American is increasingly under threat along racial and religious lines, it is horrifying to think what could happen to the thousands of non-citizen adoptees if they are not granted citizenship soon.

If they are caught and deported, these Americans may never be able to come back, to see their families again, to live the life their parents traveled thousands of miles to give them. And there’s no reason why citizenship couldn’t be granted quickly. After all, Trump managed to bar thousands of people from entering the country within a week of taking office. Imagine if he instead focused those efforts on allowing thousands of international adoptees to stay.

Catherine Palmer is a Writing Seminars major from Norristown, Pa. She is a Managing Editor.

Nancy Wang is a freshman economics and computer science double major from Westford, Mass.



FIBONACCI BLUE/CC BY 2.0

Protesters rallied against the immigration ban, a dangerous precedent for adoptees.



# PHOTO ESSAY



## LADYBIRDS SHOWCASE

BY  
DANIELLE  
TINIO





# THE B SECTION

N-L

YOUR WEEKEND • ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT • CARTOONS, ETC. • SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY • SPORTS

APRIL 13, 2017



## Arts & Entertainment

Baltimore band Future Islands shines at Ottobar show — B3

*Spring Awakening* is a stirring, powerful success — B3

KIKI Leaks: Exploring the 2000s emo movement — B4



## Science & Technology

Students present research at public health conference — B7

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## Sports

M. and W. Tennis teams defeat Mules, lose to Tartans — B10

Baltimore Orioles season off to a strong start — B10

Women's lacrosse wins one, loses one — B12



# YOUR WEEKEND APRIL 13 – 16

## Events in Baltimore this weekend

### How to start your walking tour of Baltimore

#### Thursday

##### Lesbians Who Tech (and friends) Baltimore April Meetup, Sugarvale, 5:30 p.m.

Join a community of queer women and allies who work in tech fields for beverages, conversation about geeky topics and professional networking. \$0-15.

#### Friday

##### Married to Art: Espi Frazier artist talk, Gallery CA, 6:30 p.m.

Espi Frazier talks about her exhibition and the herstory of her journey as presented through her art, while creatively commenting on our society, culture and history. No listed cover.

##### Build Bridges, Tear Down Walls: Jail Support Spring Kickoff!, Sweet 27, 7 p.m.

Join a collective of community members who have been hosting a weekly jail sit at Baltimore Central Booking since summer 2016 to broaden networks, eat, drink and raise funds. A percentage of all purchases go to fund the Jail Support Crew.

#### Saturday

##### Spring Tree Fruit Fair, Rawlings Conservatory, 10 a.m.

Attend workshops on growing fruit in an urban environment and get a free fruit tree for your house on a first come, first served basis at a fair run by the Baltimore City Fruit Tree Partnership. Free.

##### Susan Alcorn and Sahba Sizdahkhani, Pepto Palace, 7 p.m.

Susan Alcorn continues to bring back the steel pedal guitar along with Sahba Sizdahkhani, who will likely be on the 104-string Persian *santur*. Susan Alcorn is an absolute must-see if you have never experienced her music. \$5-10.

#### Sunday

##### Helltrap Nightmare, E.M.P. Collective, 8 p.m.

From Chicago, Helltrap Nightmare is a night of comedy horror and noise music terror that has garnered a cult following for their unique format that allows experimental noise musicians, performers and stand up comics to share the stage in order to share their wildest and most radical material. \$10.

By RENEE SCAVONE  
For The News-Letter

Perhaps the most important part of any city, for me, is its walkability. Growing up in a town with absolutely nothing to do, walking for the sake of walking was legitimately an activity, and some of my fondest memories are talks with friends on aimless walks.

Just because Baltimore is luckily more, exciting than the suburbs doesn't mean there are laws against walking for fun. Here are three of my favorite walks around campus and the city in general.

#### Hampden

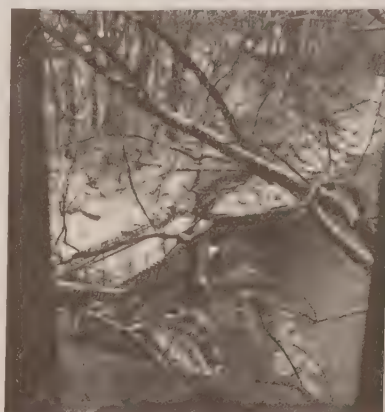
Hampden seems straightforward, but that's exactly why it's underrated. There are a million different ways to walk to Hampden and enjoy the scenery. My favorite would have to be through the woods of Wyman Park.

Start by leaving campus through the lacrosse field, crossing the road and going into the forest through a break in the guard rail. It's much less dicey than it sounds.

From there, you can go one of two ways: a gradual, meandering trip to the right and back or the most straightforward hike down, a path which at times presents nearly 90 degree drops.

If you're going to walk like a connoisseur, you should go the long route. If you like having fun or pushing your friends toward the threat of death, the second path is definitely the way to go.

From then on, simply follow the trail through



COURTESY OF RENEE SCAVONE

Left: a look down while crossing the highway on the way to Druid Hill. Right: a railroad yard near Fort McHenry.

the woods of Wyman until you get to the edge of Hampden. From then on, it's a choose-your-own-adventure through the streets of our neighboring neighborhood.

Overall walkability rating: 6.5/10. The trip is scenic and you don't have to worry about traffic, but it's not one you should make in inclement weather or low lighting, and its lack of sidewalks makes it less accessible to folks who are differently abled.

#### Druid Hill Park

The last time I made the trek to Druid Hill Park was during this semester's snow day, and I can vouch that it was a pleasant walk despite the rough weather.

Start at the Wyman Park Building, aka the building on the south edge of campus that houses the MechE lab, the pre-CVS Rite Aid pharmacy and at least one very unlucky IFP class per semester.

From there on it's pretty straight forward: Walk in the direction away from the BMA and turn right to stay on Wyman when you

reach San Martin Drive. Stay on Wyman for basically the remainder of the trip.

This walk will take you through Wyman Park, and then out and over the Jones Falls river and above the train tracks — truly, one of the best views of Baltimore in its contrast between industry and nature.

The it's just a matter of crossing above the Jones Falls Expressway to get into Druid Hill.

Overall walkability rating: 8/10. Although it's a bit longer of a trek, the paved paths are more accessible, but crossing over the highway can be freaky.

#### Fort McHenry

This one is a little bit of a cheater, in that you can (and probably will) take a bus at some point. The last time I went, I took the Charm City Circulator Purple Route to the Fort Avenue stop. From there, the walk to the park is down that street through Pigtown.

The walk passes by a Little League field, a train yard and more than a few

great brunch spots. It's also highly popular with runners, bikers and dog walkers, a factor indicative of the neighborhood's safety.

On the way back, I headed down Key Highway in hope of seeing the water at sunset.

While my hopes were mostly dashed by tall buildings, every so often I could peek out into the harbor.

Overall walkability rating: 7/10. Taking the bus to walk feels a bit counter-intuitive, but not taking the bus means committing to a 14-mile round trip. That being said, it's definitely nice, with a ton of cool views. With the many restaurants en route, it's a great potential date.

From the MTA to the Charm City Circulator, there are plenty of bus routes in Baltimore. However, this doesn't mean you shouldn't take a stroll every now and then. A good walk can lead to good conversation and provide a new perspective of the city you live in.

## Baby's On Fire offers alternative to Hampden

By VERONICA REARDON  
Your Weekend Editor

In the spirit of searching for new potential study spaces as the end of the semester draws near and deadlines loom, this past week I went to check out Baby's On Fire, a coffee shop and record store in Mount Vernon. Named after the Brian Eno song, it opened just last year to generally positive reviews.

Baby's On Fire is on Morton Street, just a block away from the Mount Vernon CVS on North Charles Street. It's a JHMI ride and a short walk away from campus, or it could be a very chill bike ride.

While Charles Street is always busy, Morton Street feels quiet and tucked away. It definitely showcases some of my favorite characteristics of Mount Vernon, with historic buildings, potted trees tucked away in alcoves and a feeling that is urban but not overwhelming so.

The tables outside are painted bright red. While the color certainly fits with the whole "Baby's On Fire" theme, it looked more cheerful than fiery on the day I went, especially with the blue sky and the rainbow flag waving from beside the shop's door.

The whole front window is full of tiny lights, and sandwich boards outside proclaim the specials



COURTESY OF VERONICA REARDON

Baby's on Fire is located on the relatively idyllic Morton Street, not far from the bustle of North Charles.

in neon colors.

The interior is bright white and arranged in a way that feels social without being too crowded. Their record selection is displayed on a table in the middle of the shop.

I flipped through several, and many were bands that I'd never heard of. Prices ranged from \$8 or \$10 to \$25 for the records.

Any true hipster or big fan of music, especially alternative or classic rock, would be very happy in there.

Albums they had on display included *Brigitte Bardot Sings* and *Aldrich Arboretum*. Featured artists were Future Islands, Tame Impala, My Bloody Valentine and others I didn't know such as Sneaks and Charles Mingus. I feel like I could learn a lot about music there.

Like Artifact, XS and some other coffee shops, Baby's on Fire has a sit-

down meal option as well as traditional coffee shop offerings. Either way, you order at the counter. Their food was about typical for a coffee shop as far as price goes — a few dollars for a pastry or a bagel, with sandwiches between \$5 and \$8.

Their coffee was actually a step up from other shops. I had plain black coffee, and it was tastier than most coffee, both when it was fresh and after it had cooled.

They had some tasty-sounding beverages advertised as well, including an orange-caramel latte which would likely taste either really good or truly terrible. They are also BYOB-friendly.

While the scene there is very hipster and fairly similar to the semi-pricey places you will find in Hampden, it is also very friendly, perhaps more so than places like Spro or Artifact. It seems

like a good alternative to Hampden.

It seemed a lot less obnoxiously hipster than I expected somewhere named after a Brian Eno song to be, and yes, I realize that the previous statement makes me sound a little bit hipster.

They hosted a number of concerts during the winter, mainly of local artists and will likely host more. People who played there included Seth Adam Kallik, a local who works in the restaurant business, and J. Robbins, a Baltimore/DC post-punk artist.

Although my positive feelings about the place might be more attributable to the beautiful weather than to the café itself, I will definitely be revisiting Baby's on Fire, in part because I like their menu, and because I like the idea of sitting outside on Morton Street on a quiet and sunny afternoon, with a friend or a book.



# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Future Islands captivate at Ottobar show Spring Awakening wows audiences

By KATHERINE LOGAN  
Staff Writer

There was excitement in the air at Future Islands' Friday night show, held at the Ottobar to celebrate the release of their latest album, *The Far Field*. By inviting Nerftoss and Soul Cannon to open and choosing to play at Ottobar in lieu of a larger venue, Future Islands seemed to be giving back to the Baltimore community, which frontman Samuel T. Herring emphasized has meant a lot to the band.

This, in combination with his tendency to literally embrace audience members whilst singing, lent the show an intimate and communal rather than self-congratulatory feel. If you were in the audience, you were invited to temporarily let go both of the stressors of our current social and political climate and of those that simply come with the territory of being human, or at least to join in on the party and dance through them.

Nerftoss aka John C. Jones, formerly a member of Dope Body, had a setup that looked like the producer's equivalent of a mad scientist's lab — MacBook glowing beside his keyboard, wires protruding from a variety of soundboards.

His set was solid and, although his music may not immediately seem like a natural fit with Future Islands', it provided an interesting sonic backdrop as the crowd gradually began to gather, growing over the course of his set.

Next up was the electric



KATHRYN PARSON/CC-BY-ND-2.0

Samuel T. Herring is the frontman of the enigmatic Baltimore-based indie rock band, Future Islands.

experimental rap group Soul Cannon, who had the crowd won-over almost immediately with their high-energy set. Soul Cannon's Eze Jackson interacted with the crowd, playing off their energy.

At one point he asked, "I had a crazy ass week yo, did y'all have a crazy ass week?" before engaging the audience in a call-and-response: "If so, say 'fuck that shit.'"

And then Jackson was off to the races again, spitting rhymes fast enough to leave himself out of breath — freestyling, dancing through a fantastic electric guitar solo, seeming to truly be relishing the moment.

By this point, the crowd was more than ready for Future Islands to take to the stage. While the beginning of their set unsurprisingly focused on highlighting several tracks off of *The Far Field*, including "Aladdin," "Beauty of the Road," "Cave" and "North Star," Future Islands also played some deeper cuts

from their second album, *In Evening Air*.

Their encore, a sampling of songs from *The Far Field*, *Singles* and *In Evening Air*, served as a reminder of the consistent intensity and strength of their material. The combination of the strobe lighting and Herring's growl seemed momentarily to transport the crowd into an almost heavy-metal atmosphere.

Of course, the band had to include their breakout hit, "Seasons (Waiting On You)." Yet, given that this was one of their first shows since their break from touring, they seemed genuinely happy to do so, rather than bored by it or exasperated.

It was truly a testament to the effervescent energy and almost non-stop dancing that Herring is known for — whether it's performing high-kicks during an instrumental break or practically throwing himself on the floor mid-verse — that his salmon-hued button-down was soaked through after the first several songs. It's easy to see why so many fans of Future Islands emphasize the value of seeing them perform live.

I myself definitely gained a newfound level of respect for them as a result of witnessing this show. At one point, during "Before the Bridge," I could see the entire crowd enthusiastically jumping up and down. This is what I love about going to live shows: They have the potential to generate a sense of unity among strangers, encapsulated in a moment.

The vast majority of those present were family, friends and dedicated fans, singing along with every song and ready to match Herring's energy. You could tell that this wasn't their first Future Islands rodeo. This was something the band seemed to

humbly and fully appreciate, stopping to thank the crowd for "bringing their fucking souls" there.

The show streamed live on Pitchfork, and the band is listed at the top of the Sunday lineup for Coachella. The members of Future Islands have worked incredibly hard to get to where they are and have clearly put a lot of effort into their music, and they still seem to have a sense of humor about themselves.

When Herring realized they had not introduced themselves about two thirds of the way through the set, even he had to laugh, saying to himself, "Damn dude, put on a dry shirt before you come onstage." Then, "Imagine if we'd just started. People would be like 'What the fuck did that guy do?'"

Later on in the show, when they had to re-start "Ran," Herring shook it off with laugh and an endearing smile: "We believe in 'showing your work' because we all failed math. We decided, we must've fucked up somewhere, so now we show our work."

With a 25 song, career-spanning set, Future Islands truly left it all on the stage that night, doing both Baltimore and their home-state of North Carolina proud.

In a day and age when a tween can get a record deal after one YouTube cover goes viral, there was a thrilling, almost nostalgic quality to watching a band enjoy the long-term payoff after truly putting everything on the line — playing DIY gigs day in and day out for years without much recognition or critical acclaim.

It is a classic, feel-good success story, and that night the crowd at Ottobar were given the chance to play a part, however small.

By WILL KIRSCH  
Staff Writer

The last time I saw anything involving live acting was my high school's production of *Little Shop of Horrors*, which, if you do not know, has something to do with an anthropomorphic plant that eats people while singing jazzy tunes.

The point is, it had been a while since I had gone to see actors perform in three dimensions, but my streak was broken on Saturday, April 8 when I saw the Barnstormers production of Duncan Sheik's 2006 musical, *Spring Awakening*.

The show was overseen by New York-based director Claire Edmonds with the talented Eric Rausch, who has worked on more than 500 productions over the course of his career, serving as the musical director.

With no prior knowledge of *Spring Awakening*'s plot, I watched the events that transpired on the satisfyingly minimalist stage of Swirnow Theater with a constant sense of surprise. Based on a 19th-century play, *Spring Awakening* starts off as a tale of that confusing period in life we all know so well: puberty.

A group of German teenagers attempt to navigate their way around the daunting questions surrounding sex, love, faith and life in a time where internet pornography was not there to answer all these questions and more, in both standard and high definition.

The story begins fairly innocuously, a simple tale of innocence lost, but it

quickly turns into something else entirely. Without spoilers, let us just say that the family-friendly title does not tell the whole story and — mother of God — do things go from zero to a hundred really quickly. Suffice it to say that I choked up, and the last time I cried at anything fictional was when I was 10.

The characters in *Spring Awakening* are relatable and sympathetic. They all fulfill certain aspects of the teenage experience that anyone who attended middle school can certainly relate to.

The male lead is Melchior Gabor (played by senior Brad Bowers), an intellectual and possibly nihilistic rebel who seeks liberation from an oppressive regime of Teutonic parental and religious authoritarianism.

Also, his name sounds like some sort of Portuguese candy bar. Alongside Melchior is his best friend Moritz Stiefel (freshman Sebastian Durfee), a nervous and aloof young man who is struggling with his budding sexuality.

With Melchior and Moritz are their classmates Georg Zirschnitz (junior Daniel Akinbolue), Otto Lämmermeier (freshman Carver Bain), Ernst Röbel (freshman Nick Xitco), Hänschen Rilow (junior Ian Stark) and Bobby Maler (sophomore Brice Messenger).

While technically supporting characters, none of these boys function as mere filler. They all have a certain degree of depth to them that contributes to the

SEE SPRING, PAGE B4



COURTESY OF KATHERINE LOGAN

Nerftoss, or John C. Jones of Dope Body, opened for Future Islands.

## Your Name. sets new standard for anime

By JESSICA LIONG  
For The News-Letter

"[It was] nothing more, nothing less, than a beautiful view."

This line, spoken simultaneously by the two protagonists of *Your Name.*, succeeds in both kicking off Makoto Shinkai's latest film, and describing with an ironic sort of accuracy the essence of his previous works — all visuals and little substance. Despite breathtaking sceneries and vivid animation, pieces such as *5 Centimeters per Second* and *Garden of Words* were lacking in essential aspects of storytelling.

Characters felt stilted and plots thin, leaving the films with not much more to run on than pretty pictures and the enduring dream of star-crossed lovers (a recur-

ring theme in Shinkai's works).

As my cousin said after her first experience with a Shinkai piece, "When you get bored, at least you can just admire the art."

But, here is where *Your Name.* breaks apart from its predecessors. Featuring the most effective character writing seen in any Shinkai work to date, a genuinely shocking plot twist and a catchy soundtrack composed and performed by the Japanese rock band RADWIMPS, it isn't hard to see how *Your Name.* has rocketed to international fame, becoming the highest-grossing anime film since Hayao Miyazaki's famed film *Spirited Away* was released in 2001.

*Your Name.* tells the story of a boy and a girl

SEE ANIME, PAGE B5

## Joey Bada\$\$ goes radio-friendly with new album

By NIKITA SHTARKMAN  
For The News-Letter

Joey Bada\$\$ is a miracle. At a time when New York and East Coast hip-hop as a collective was being mocked, ridiculed and disdained, Joey, this wiry, wide-eyed 18-year-old kid dropped his first mixtape, 1999, and changed the status and esteem of a whole coast.

ALL-AMERIKKAN BADA\$\$ is Joey's second proper LP, a project he is dropping with major hype at his heels. Besides gaining notoriety for his freestyle prowess, Joey has also been making some high quality singles. One of the best singles of the

year is "Front & Center," a phenomenal track with a perfect sample and a riveting bass-line. The drums here are a joy to listen to, and Joey absolutely tears through his verse.

Unfortunately, the other big Joey Bada\$\$ song of the year, "DEVASTATED," is one that disappointed me and many of his fans. It isn't necessarily a bad song, but it shows a transformation from the Joey who rapped over old New York boom-bap beats in his bedroom to the Joey who feels the need to make radio hits.

Some hoped that in the context of the album, it would develop into a greater piece, but it remains a lackluster song

with a simple melody and some uninteresting verses. This is a prevalent theme throughout the entirety of his second LP.

The songs that Joey makes on ALL-AMERIKKAN BADA\$\$ are far more accessible and radio-friendly than his earlier works. Unfortunately, this leads to a far more uninteresting and uninspired track listing.

I guess the worst part of this project is the lack of memorability. I got through the whole tracklist and could honestly name no songs other than "ROCKABYE BABY," "DEVASTATED" and "RING THE ALARM" (with Nyck Caution, Kirk Knight and Meechy Dar-

ko). Not one of the songs on this project is fundamentally bad. A lot of them are just bland.

I blame the production, not Joey himself. The beats, while technically serviceable, have a bland, grey feeling. Past Joey songs, like "My Yout" (with Maverick Sabre) and "Waves" have a character and flow to them that can be found nowhere else. The beats for a lot of the songs on this project sound like default boom-bap freestyle beats on a free app.

I also think that the singing plays into the dullness of the project. While Joey can hammer out some notes, and

SEE JOEY, PAGE B5



COURTESY OF THE BARNSTORMERS

The Barnstormers performed *Spring Awakening* over the past weekend.



## ARTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT

# Legion plays with viewers' expectations

By DUBRAY KINNEY  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Early on in the first episode FX's *Legion*, a character's memory of a pivotal event is dissected. Thirty minutes later another character enters and essentially tells the audience that the previous memory was fabricated.

Nomally something like that wouldn't be too disorienting, especially considering that *Legion* basically tells you that we're seeing the show through the main character, David's, delusional eyes. Yet, for me at least, the revelation that multiple aspects of David's established backstory were lies made me double check everything every character said from that point on.

*Legion* is the latest television show from FX, a network that has been on a roll since the late 2010s with shows like *The Americans* and *Fargo*. *Legion* had big shoes to fill with the popularity of the shows that surround it but it also had the right man at the helm of the show. Noah Hawley, showrunner of *Fargo*, signed on to show-run *Legion* and his ability to tell a story with style was duly noted as the show unfolded.

*Legion* revolves around the mind of David (Dan Stevens), a man who is admitted to Clockworks, a mental institution, after he suffers from a psychotic break. Other people at this institution include, Lenny (Aubrey Plaza) and the newest admittee Syd (Rachel Keller) who believes that she's a mutant with the ability to switch bodies upon touching the skin of another person.

It should be men-

tioned here that *Legion* is an adaptation of an *X-Men* character onto the small screen but unless anyone wants to get spoiled towards possible directions for the show, I wouldn't look up anything about the character.

Going into this show blind is the best thing that any viewer could do. The show plays with any given viewer's expectations as well as tropes and themes that we associate with certain situations before throwing them on their heads.

Some sequences that are worth talking about without getting into spoiler territory is a semi-silent confrontation that is given sound by the faux-composing of a telepath. Not to mention the action-packed finale of the first episode which features mutant abilities being used at such a grand scale that one could argue is better than any of the *X-Men* films thus far.

I should also mention that Aubrey Plaza is an absolute standout on this show. She gets to play a character with such range and such physicality that I wouldn't be surprised if this serves to be her true breakout role, even though she's already been in plenty of things. Perhaps after *Legion* she'll make her push for the A-List in a similar way that her former *Parks and Recreation* (RIP Lil' Sebastian) co-star, Chris Pratt did.

*Legion* is a show full of anachronisms, stories that go nowhere and characters that don't seem to know where they are going. It's also one of the must-see new shows of 2017.

# Remembering the 2000s emo movement leaders



Kyra Lesser  
KIKI LEAKS

Let me make one thing clear: I have been in a Hot Topic once in my life. If you must know the context of this visit, it was to find a Kid Cudi t-shirt for my older brother. You remember the time; Cudi's *Man on the Moon* had just dropped, the names on everyone's lips were "Snooki" and "Sullenberger" and your parents had just discovered that their life savings was taken by Bernie Madoff.

Now dear reader, I do not know who you are but I can most likely predict that you too have stepped into a Hot Topic. Maybe it was to buy a gift, maybe it was to try out black lipstick, or maybe, just maybe, you needed to buy a coveted Nirvana smiley face tee.

In the era of the aughts, Hot Topic was Mecca to wannabe-punks everywhere that creamed their jeans at the mention of the words "Warped Tour." Yet, who were the innovators that brought this facet of fashion into relevance? Why did men suddenly decide it was an obligation to wear "guyliner?" And who the hell decided that fingerless fishnet gloves had a right to exist? Let's observe.

The year was 2002. With the success of their album *The Young and the Hopeless*, Good Charlotte shot to instant stardom.



ED VILL/CC-BY-2.0

Billie Joe Armstrong, lead singer of punk band Green Day, helped to establish the "emo" look.

The band hails from local city Waldorf, Maryland and released their debut album, *Good Charlotte* in 2000.

What really solidified the group's popularity was the I'm-sensitive-but-will-still-steal-a-slurshie-from-7/11 vibe of identical twins Benji and Joel Madden. Joel had a tamer look: slicked black hair gingerly formed into a petite, spry mohawk, a cross pendant

cheetah print spots.

It is impossible to forget Benji's sleeve of overbearing and aggressive tattoos of God knows what. You may be thinking, "how did these guys ever get girls? They sound like bonafide hooligans!" Well, Benji is married to Cameron Diaz, and Joel to Nicole Richie. Better stock up on liquid liner now, lads.

Another huge proponent of the emo-sad-boi-tight-jen-s-Myspace-Ashlee Simpson-is-my-future-wife crowd was Pete Wentz. I remember

Oh, a father of two can't wear guyliner? Think again. He can. And he did. Every damn day.

always being confused as to why Wentz was relevant.

Wentz is still the most famous member of the band Fall Out Boy but I was never exactly sure of his role. Turns out, Pete is the bassist and back-up singer. That's like if Michelle became the most famous member of Destiny's Child. Let that sit with you for a minute. Ok, ready to continue?

So, Pete was "the face" of the group, considering every other member of Fall Out Boy looks like a bloated version of Jesse, Danny and Joey from *Full House*. Wentz's going out look was always the same: an ambiguously greasy, artificially black, side-swept set of bangs, smudged eyeliner solely on the bottom lid and if we were really lucky, a black fedora.

Pete's sense of style worked to his benefit during this era. He dated pretty much anyone who had a show on the CW and even had a short-lived marriage with Ashlee Simpson.

Our next scholar of style is Gerard Way. Way, a soft-spoken doughboy of a mensch was the lead singer and co-founder of the band My Chemical Romance.

Way never left the house without his black button-down shirt, silk red tie and a face as pale as an angsty powdered doughnut. And

yes, Way wore guyliner!

He wore it on both lids, not unlike a sad baby raccoon that has just watched his mother become road kill. Way was the lovechild of Edward Scissorhands and Winona Ryder that we never got to meet. He always had a type of je-ne-sais-quoi that no one could decipher in terms of why they were attracted to him.

Was it his lifeless demeanor or aching, whiny vocals about parades that was such a guaranteed panty-dropper? Way has fallen into a state of oblivion and obscurity. He now performs solo, and his sales are "meh", much like his personality when he stepped onto the scene.

Our final fashion killer is Billie Joe Armstrong. Although already a father of two during this era, Armstrong was the granddaddy of all these teenage fools. With a head of hair as spiky as a medieval flail and a body as pale and bony as Kate Moss during her heroin binge, Armstrong made it clear that he was not to be messed with.

Whether it was a graphic tee or a black button-down, Armstrong never lost sight of his CEO of EMO status. Armstrong's band Green Day owned the new millennium. Did you have a discussion about where exactly the "Boulevard of Broken Dreams" was at your thanksgiving table, too?

Green Day even got a musical made out of all of their songs. You can bet that none of that was possible without Armstrong and his transformative fashion choices. Oh, a father of two can't wear guyliner? Think again. He can. And he did. Every damn day.

Thus, what have we learned from all of this, dear reader? Was America's adoration for tight jeans and sadness acceptable? Is eyeliner mutually exclusive to a female market? Do studded belts make you look more likely to be a witch? I'm not a magician. I don't have answers for all of these questions, but I do know that pre-2010 was a beautiful time for any emo egoist.

# Spring Awakening is Barnstormers at their best

SPRING, FROM B3

awkward and relatable theme of growing up in a world of uncertainty—and getting erections in very inappropriate situations.

The leading woman is Wendla Bergman (played by junior Emily Su), a naive but curious and strong girl who tentatively seeks out adulthood. Unlike Melchior Gabor, her name is fairly normal and thus I cannot offer a joke here. Sorry for letting you down. With Wendla are her friends Martha Bessell (Hopkins freshman Maya Singh Sharkey), Thea (Hopkins freshman Sydney Thomas), and Anna (Hopkins sophomore Octavia Fitzmaurice), all of whom are seeking the truths of adulthood and are attempting to cope with their at times incredibly tragic

lives. The outlying female character is Ilse Neumann (Hopkins junior Allie Zito), a childhood friend of Moritz who forsakes the high-collar Protestant culture of her abusive home and settles instead in an artists' colony. Ilse seems to represent what opportunities lay off of the beaten path, but also the tragedies of uncertainty.

Interestingly, all the adult characters are played by one actor and one actress, in this case Hopkins graduate student Scott Albert and junior Elizabeth Winkelhoff. This created a nice effect because it transformed the adults from individuals into more of a collective force that exists in opposition to the more well-defined young characters.

Indeed, all of the older

figures in the play share certain traits which manifest themselves as an obstacle to the development of the ensemble of young heroes and heroines.

Frankly, the entire cast was good. I had never been to a Barnstormers show before, so I was approaching this blindly, but every cast-member shone regardless of whether they were a lead or part of the ensemble. The leads Bowers and Su were great, but they also did not completely steal the show, which is a good thing as few stories without an array of substantial and interesting characters are worth hearing.

For me, Durfee's Stiefel was particularly excellent; he powerfully evoked in both song and performance the tragic in-

nocence that the character seemed to exemplify.

Musically, one could describe *Spring Awakening* as a "rock musical"—Wikipedia does—but it is not exactly *Quadrophenia*. Certainly, rock is an integral aspect of the show's music—all of which was composed by Duncan Sheik, but it also relies heavily on string instruments. Regardless, the music was good and ranged from tragic ballads like "Mama Who Bore Me" to defiant numbers like "Totally Fucked." Both Bowers and Su took to the music well, leading with energy and charisma. The ensemble was a force of its own both as a backdrop for Wendla and Melchior's personal numbers and in their own.

I wish I could publish my notes from the show, but they are essentially just the ramblings of a madman. However, they do express in the simplest of short-handed terms that I honestly really enjoyed it. The production was nothing if not impressive and the story itself was compelling—in the sense that it effectively switched between droll comedy and abyss-embracing tragedy.

*Spring Awakening* will be running until April 16. I would highly recommend suspending your anti-social tendencies and near-crippling academic fears for an evening and seeing it.



MOBU26/CC-BY-ND-2.0

Gerard Way also helped format the stereotypical "emo" fashion.

## Errata: Apr. 6 Edition

In the April 6, 2017 edition of *The News-Letter*, the article titled "*Make Trouble* showcases John Waters' range" originally attributed the illustrations in John Waters' book, *Make Trouble*, to the author himself. However, the illustrations were actually created by Eric Hanson.

*The News-Letter* regrets this error.



## ARTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT

Shinkai's latest anime hit deserves praise *Queer representation falls short in media*

ILYA VOYAGER/CC-BY-SA 3.0  
Makoto Shinkai demonstrates the range of his skills in *Your Name*.

ANIME FROM B3  
worlds apart who one day wake up in each other's bodies, reminiscent of a *Freaky Friday* scenario. Mitsuha, born and raised in rural Japan, is thrust into the heart of Tokyo, while city boy Taki finds himself in a countryside town he doesn't even know the name of.

Through crisp editing that blends seamlessly with the story's chronological jumps and our protagonists' voiceover interactions, the audience, along with Taki and Mitsuha, begins to understand more about their mystical situation.

Accompanied by a poppy original RADWIMPS song, we witness Taki and Mitsuha slowly but surely growing accustomed to waking up in each other's bodies a few times a week, making small adjustments to the other's life and learning more about each other all the while.

It almost would have been enough for the story to leave it at that — nothing more than a fun slice of life with just a hint of the supernatural.

Shinkai excels at establishing the familial ambience of small-town life as well as the warmth and excitement of a bustling city. Quick cuts and bright palettes throughout the body-switching sequences lend the settings, both urban and rural, a sense of familiarity and comfort.

Our hearts swell at seeing Mitsuha experience the metropolitan wonders she's always dreamed of, and we marvel alongside Taki at the natural beauty of the country.

However, a shift in tone and plot halfway in turns everything we

thought we knew on its head, waking us from the complacent dream that we and our protagonists have been settling into.

The emotional deftness with which Shinkai handles the event that shatters Taki and Mitsuha's worlds shines the brightest here, even as shadows loom ever larger in the story's progression.

At this point, Shinkai's pacing of the film is especially noteworthy. He never lingers on any plot point for too long, allowing the audience to take in the significance but moving on before it starts to drag. Developments occur as quickly or as slowly as they should, and even the jokes are delivered with a nice, snappy sense of comedic timing.

Of course, it wouldn't be a Shinkai film review without mentioning his artistry. Shinkai's photorealistic scenery, brimming with loving detail and magnificent colors, forms a type of atmosphere I can only compare to early Ghibli works, where even the most mundane of settings have a touch of magic to them.

From the brilliant hues of a soaring comet to the glittering streets of everyday Tokyo, Shinkai manages to create a world that feels almost illusionary in its beauty for its audience and characters alike. Even then, the interactions between *Your Name*'s characters and their surroundings have a real sense of depth that I've yet to find in any other anime film.

Shots like those of Mitsuha racing down the stairs of a temple or Taki circling around an age-old crater boast such raw,

dynamic movement and radiant backgrounds that you scarcely want to blink for fear of missing them.

Character animations are fluid and wonderfully distinct. Without either one of the characters saying a word, it's still remarkably easy to tell when Mitsuha is in Taki's body or vice versa.

Additionally, the voice acting talents of Ryunosuke Kamiki and Mone Kamishiraishi give their characters life beyond simple words on a script. The contrasts between voices cannot have been easy to portray, with varying fluctuations, tones and even dialects for each character, depending on who is in whose body, but both voice actors deliver solid performances throughout the film.

Kamishiraishi, who also works as a singer, even offers a lovely treat in the form of a Mitsuha solo version of the film's ending theme.

Indeed, *Your Name*'s soundtrack, composed entirely by RADWIMPS' lead vocalist, Yojiro Noda, plays as big a part in the film's storytelling as anything else. The plot is divided into three distinct acts by inserted songs that let the audience know when a shift is occurring without the need for clumsy transitions or narrative cover-ups.

Numbers such as "Dream Lantern" and "Zenzenzense" quickly became fan favorites with their upbeat, rock-style, while more traditional background music such as "Date" and "Kataware-doki" set unforgettably touching and often heart-wrenching moods in their respective scenes through soft piano melodies.

For all the praise I'm giving *Your Name*, it isn't without its flaws. At times, the writing can feel stretched out, potentially testing many viewers' suspensions of disbelief, particularly during the latter half of the film.

Furthermore, one scene has been admitted by Shinkai himself to largely exist to appeal to the fetishes of young men. Although the significance of it helped move the story along technically, the close-up shot featured in it did the film few favors.

Character designs, es-

pecially on the part of the male characters, are an unfortunate brand of generic for what is otherwise a visually unique film. Finally, some jokes and thematically-important phrases may have been lost to an English-speaking audience, but considering how difficult language intricacies are to translate, this is more forgivable.

Although any one of these aspects might dampen a viewer's experience, the rest of the film is still strong enough to make it a powerful, unforgettable watch.

"Treasure the experience. Dreams fade away after you wake up."

Ultimately, *Your Name* is a story of connections being forged, fraying and struggling to form again. It's about the bonds between friends, between family, between two children who find a place in one another and can never quite forget that feeling, however fleeting it may have been.

Elegantly executed through gorgeous artistry, an impressive musical score and above all else, a compelling story, *Your Name* stands among the most memorable of anime films in recent history and thus far the strongest of Shinkai's career.

Makoto Shinkai's previous films include *The Garden of Words*, *5 Centimeters Per Second* and *Children Who Chase Lost Voices*. *Your Name* represents a new level for Shinkai, with the film receiving a 97 percent on Rotten Tomatoes and becoming the first anime film not directed by Hayao Miyazaki to earn more than \$100 million in the box office.

The newfound praise hasn't altered Shinkai's vision though, as he has been noted to claim that the film still felt incomplete in his eyes compared to his original vision due to a lack of time and money.

Still, the film has swept up at Japanese award shows, including numerous best actor awards at multiple anime-themed award shows (like the Seiyu Awards) as well as nominations at the world-regarded Annie Awards, although *Your Name* didn't bring any awards home.

By JACOB TOOK  
Staff Writer

A lot of people think that the issue of queer representation in the media ended in 2004 with Damian from *Mean Girls* in the same way that many people think the larger battle for gay rights ended with the establishment of marriage equality in 2015.

I think it's great that as a society we've moved on from a couple of decades ago, when the thought of a character confirmed to be gay appearing on a TV show warranted death threats.

Yet, while the dynamics around representation have changed, with the push becoming less visible, we're still not seeing much representation that accurately reflects queer identities. Instead we're getting characters who are created by and for straight people.

To clarify, I don't mean that queer people can't enjoy those characters. For example, it's really refreshing to see shows like *The Walking Dead* include some L B G T + representation, but when most of the queer characters are hardly allowed to have more than a few episodes of happiness before they meet their untimely ends, it can begin to feel like a frustrating and repetitive cycle.

While it's true that no one on *The Walking Dead* is safe, imagine a show full of queer romance in which the writers killed off the one heterosexual couple after three episodes. It's this kind of practice that alienates queer viewers and detracts validity from this kind of representation.

Far worse than the exploitation of queer identity for tragedy is exacerbating queer stereotypes to generate a few cheap laughs from the audience. This has been going on for decades, and it's not just queer identities on the chopping block. Straight white male producers will exploit women, queer people and people of color if it lets them build in a few one-liners.

Look at Titus Andromedon from *Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt* or Ola from *Chewing Gum*. I love both of these shows, but these characters don't reflect real queer identities.

Rather, they reflect the stereotypes that straight people can comfortably laugh about.

This kind of representation isn't just bad because it doesn't reflect real queer identities and, if anything, actively alienates queer consumers. No, it goes beyond that.

Inaccurate queer representation like the kind found in many current shows (excluding *How to Get Away with Murder*) also distances straight consumers from engaging with and understanding queer identities. This further impedes the integration of queer people into our heteronormative culture, who have enough problems outside

of convincing straight people they don't have to say "yas queen" to be legitimate.

This is by no means a critique of all straight people, because for the most part, they don't actively work to exclude queer minorities. However, I've lost count of how many people have told me that I don't act enough like whatever stereotypical character they've seen on TV.

The straight producers that create these characters and perpetuate these archetypes are the problem. They are actively dehumanizing queer identities by shaping expectations of them to fit these reductive, allegedly humorous portrayals.

Every time a straight person chuckles when a gay character says something absurdly effeminate, the idea that that is how gay people act is reinforced in their heads.

This isn't one of those problems that's distant and intangible. The obvious solution is to start putting queer writers, actors and producers in control of these roles so that the representation naturally becomes more accurate and less generalized.

Queer representation should be human representation. Until the queer characters in media are humanized, the representation will never be truly reflective of the queer community.

To legitimize their diversity, shows need to address the sexualities of their queer characters directly. That is not to say that every show should become exclusively about queer issues, but addressing the nuances of queer identities will expand those identities beyond the stereotyped images we've become numb to.

Queer baiting, the practice of suggesting that a character is queer without ever explicitly addressing it in the show, has got to stop. This tactic of trying to appeal to both queer consumers that want to see their own identities reflected in queer characters as well as straight people who get a laugh out of the exploitation of queer stereotypes is disgraceful.

It's important for queer people to have a space, both physically and in the media, and most shows today are failing to provide that space despite their alleged representation of queer identities.

Again, it's great that we're in a place as a society where this debate is possible, but I don't like seeing complacency on the issue of representation, especially in queer communities, who should be pressing now more than ever to gain proper representation.

I understand that this type of change happens one step at a time, but I'm sick of seeing queer identities exploited by producers for market gains and then defended in the name of representation.

## JOEY BADA\$\$ stumbles with his latest album

JOEY, FROM B3  
it serves to continue the melodies, it isn't very pleasing and honestly ruins the vibe of some of the songs. "LEGENDARY," featuring J. Cole, is one such song: It sounds a lot like a salvaged cut off of 2014 *Forest Hills Drive*.

This is the culmination of the fear that I had when "DEVASTATED" came out. While the verses on the track are good, the beat is less chill-hop and more snooze-hop. It calls back to the beats that Guru could have rapped over in *Jazzmatazz* but slowed and slightly more tame.

While there is a major theme to this project, the racism and hatred that America was built on, the motif isn't presented in a very interesting or delicate way. The same brutal, unsubtle style of the album's title and cover image (Joey throwing

up middle fingers while carrying an American flag) persists through the whole album.

This is surprising considering Joey is one of the best artists at hinting at secondary meanings and messages. Songs like "Y U DON'T LOVE ME? (MISS AMERIKKKA)" have such blatant messages in, "America don't love me/Whole country turn on me," that it feels more like a lecture than a layered detailed rap song.

The all-caps titles of tracks are another symptom of this over-eager, over-earnest attitude.

This shouldn't give anyone the impression that Joey raps poorly or fails to deliver lyrically. Joey, as expected, spits incredibly on this project. The best parts of this project are his verses.

The song "RING THE ALARM" is exactly the kind of music I want Joey



G. CARUS/CC-BY-SA 3.0  
Joey Bada\$\$ released his sophomore studio album this past Friday.

to continue making. The melody is catchy and somewhat retro-sounding. It is simple but layered and smooth.

Joey bounces on it with his choppy flow, building up entendre after entendre. Lines like, "Dripping in gold since a minor/miner" are great examples of Joey's

power with wordplay.

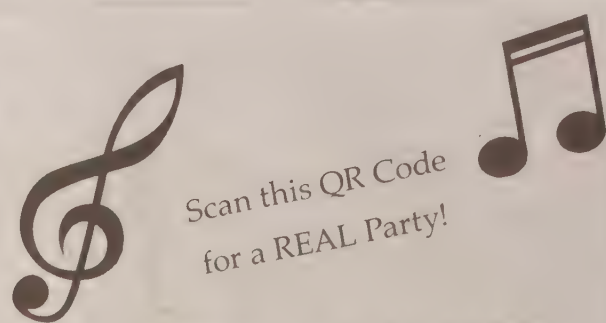
Overall, there are some great parts to this album, but they are watered down by a few unfortunate decisions. I hope that with his following work, Joey focuses on the bars and the production over the accessibility of the songs.



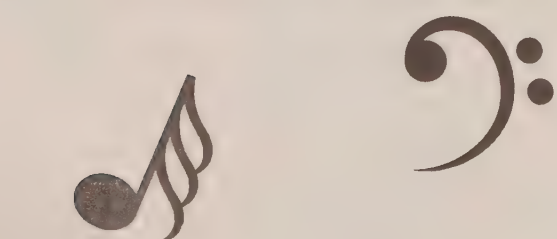
# CARTOONS, ETC.

Grave Humor

By Stephanie Herrera



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Well Wishes

By Tony Street



Well. You Can Try...

By Natalie Wallington

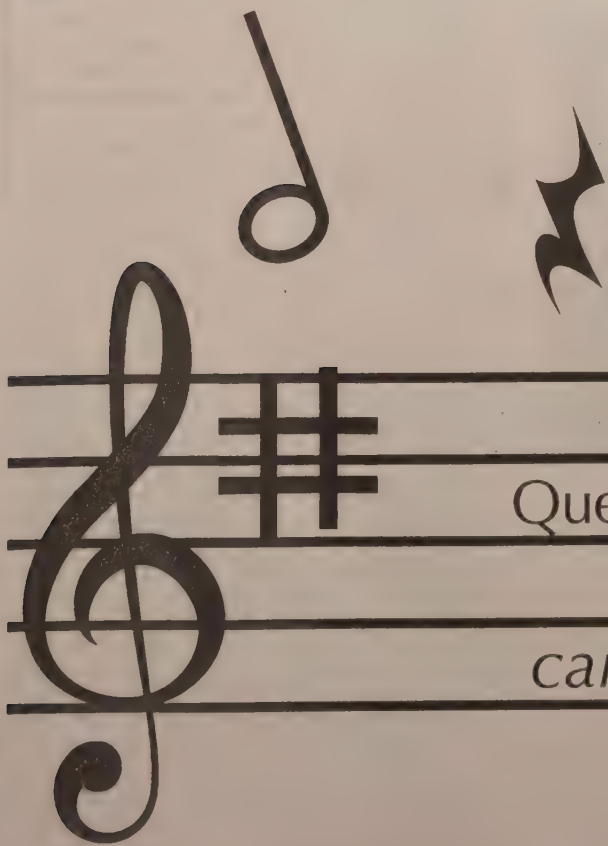


Hey there Maestro!

Questions? Comments? Concertos?

Email

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# SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

## Student public health forum hosts conference *Lead exposure may contribute to lower IQ*



COURTESY OF SANDRA HONG  
Senior Jonathan Martinez presents on food insecurity and diet habits among public housing residents.

By **EVERY GULINO**  
For *The News-Letter*

Public Health Studies undergraduates pinned on their nametags, set up their poster boards and hosted the eighth annual Undergraduate Conference in Public Health on April 8. Flocking to the Charles Commons Salons, these students were ready to present their research in the field of public health.

This conference featured several students giving oral presentations and poster presentations, a roundtable discussion with public health professionals in Baltimore and a keynote speaker, Dr. Joshua Sharfstein. Sharfstein has extensive experience working in the field of public health and has

worked as health commissioner of Baltimore City, secretary of the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and deputy commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration.

"My favorite part of the event is a tie between the networking lunch, when I got to speak with an incredible environmental health official, and the keynote, because Dr. Sharfstein is such a wonderful and experienced member of the public health community," sophomore Indu Radhakrishnan, a member of the Public Health Student Forum, the host organization for the conference, said.

The event opened with seven undergraduates presenting their recent

findings in places ranging from locally in Baltimore to miles away in India. One student, junior Shivani Mehta, recently conducted research in Pune, India, analyzing the diets of HIV positive pregnant women and how differing diets affected their immune systems. Unfortunately, Shivani was only able to be a part of the ongoing study for a short amount of time, but she plans to continue the research in the future.

She said that she hopes the study will produce promising results. She notes that a group from Britain's Medical Research Council has recently found that in Gambia, if you are born in September, you are approximately seven times more likely to die as a young adult than if you are born in June all due to maternal nutrition during pregnancy.

Another student, senior George Mwinnyaa, focused his project on HIV in Uganda.

"George Mwinnyaa had an amazing presentation about never married women in Uganda and the age of their sexual partners; I had no idea that older sexual partners can be an indi-

cator of increased HIV risk, and it opened my eyes to just how many meaningful metrics exist to help combat disease," Radhakrishnan said.

Senior Atsumi Kimura. Kimura also confronted the issue of HIV/AIDS, focusing her research on how social media impacts HIV/AIDS treatment.

Senior Joon Bae described how Kimura's research had challenged her assumptions about social media.

"I've only thought of social media as something that hinders the process of prevention and treatment because people are more likely to show prejudice and present stigma especially when they're anonymous, or so I thought," Bae said.

"Her poster actually suggested that a number of infected informed others of their positive status using social media," she said.

Senior Jonathan Martinez worked on a study called "Association between Personal Vehicle Access with Dietary Habits and Food Insecurity among Public Housing Residents."

This study noted the disparity in cardiovascular disease and obesity among residents of lower income neighborhoods and public housing and attempted to help explain the reasons for this difference. Obesity and cardiovascular disease are also caused by lack of access to nutritious food, or food at all.

Martinez conducted an experiment to find out if having a personal vehicle allowed a person to escape the food desert, overcome food insecurity and ultimately make healthier decisions. They initially hypothesized that having a personal vehicle would

SEE CONFERENCE, PAGE B9

By **RACHEL HUANG**  
For *The News-Letter*

Lead is a common element found in many different everyday objects. Despite the widespread knowledge of its toxicity to the human body, or any biological system, lead continues to be mined and used in items ranging from handheld electronic devices to batteries in cars to x-ray protective shields at the dentist's office.

One of the most notable contributions of lead is its addition into gasoline in order to provide cars with more power. However, this provides a major hazard to society because lead and lead oxide dust become a part of the air people breathe.

When elemental lead is emitted from the tailpipe of a car, it lodges itself into the soils in the surrounding areas. Any disruption of the soil, such as from wind, children playing in the area or even animals passing through, can release the leaded soil into the air.

Studies have shown that areas with elevated leaded soil levels — such as near busy highways — correlate with decreased growth and reproductive rates in surrounding plants and animals.

A study conducted by Duke University, which was published in the *Journal of the Medical Association*, investigated the effects of lead on cognitive abilities of 556 children born in 1972 and 1973 in Dunedin, New Zealand.

Results indicated that, on average, participants who had more than 10 micrograms of lead per deciliter of blood at the age of 11 had a 4.25 IQ point drop when evaluat-

ed 27 years later. Individually, researchers found that for every five microgram of lead per deciliter of blood increase, a person could lose about 1.5 IQ points.

In a similar study based in Rochester, N.Y., out of 172 children, researchers found that children between the age of three and five whose blood lead levels increased from one microgram per deciliter to ten encountered around a 7.4 IQ point drop.

"Regardless of where you start in life, lead is going to exert a downward pull," Avshalom Caspi, Edward M. Arnett Professor at Duke University, said, according to Science Daily.

This was also true in a study conducted by the University of Pittsburgh where researchers found that compared to the law-abiding population, juvenile offenders typically had higher blood lead levels.

A blood lead level that is too high — greater than the reference level of five micrograms per deciliter for children between the age of one and five years old — negatively affects the body. Once lead enters the body, either by airborne particles or through consumption, it disperses throughout the body and is stored in the tissues and organs.

After a few weeks, the lead travels to the bones. During this process, lead, as a neurotoxic chemical, attacks the nervous system, possibly leading to life-altering neurological and physiological damage.

Children experiencing lead poisoning suffer from irritability, loss

SEE LEAD, PAGE B9

## Self-reported loneliness contributes to sickness

By **SHERRY SIMKOVIC**  
Staff Writer

Researchers at Rice University recently studied the effects of loneliness on the symptoms of the common cold. They found that patients who identified as lonely reported more acute cold symptoms while more sociable patients tended to report feeling less under the weather.

Common colds are caused by infection of rhinoviruses, one of the most prevalent infective viruses. Symptoms of a common cold typically include runny or stuffy nose, sore throat, cough and congestion. Patients can typically diagnose

themselves and decide whether they wish to see a doctor or not.

"Previous research has shown that different psycho-social factors like feeling rejected or feeling left out or not having strong social bonds with other people do make people feel worse physically, mentally and emotionally," Angie LeRoy, graduate student at Rice and one of the lead authors of the study, said in a press release. "So we had that general framework to work with."

Specifically, previous studies have demonstrated that there's a causation between loneliness and poor physical

SEE SICK, PAGE B8



BERT KAUFMANN/CC-BY-2.0

Study shows higher levels of sociability are linked to better health.

## Spiritual retreats alter dopamine, serotonin levels

By **RAYYAN JOKHAI**  
Staff Writer

More than ever, Americans are embarking on spiritual, meditative and religious retreats as a means of enhancing their mental and physical wellbeing.

Recently, a team of researchers at The Marcus Institute of Integrative Health at Thomas Jefferson University found that there is a fluctuation in dopamine and serotonin levels in the brains of people going on these retreats. Their findings have been published in *Religion, Brain, & Behavior*.

"Since serotonin and dopamine are part of the reward and emotional systems of the brain, it helps us understand why these practices result in powerful, positive emotional experiences," Dr. Andrew Newber, director of research in the Marcus Institute of Integrative Health, said, according to Science Daily.

In the study, participants were scanned after returning from the retreat. The data showed that there were significant decreases in levels of dopamine

transporter (five to eight percent) and serotonin transporter (6.5 percent) binding. The decrease in transporter binding was linked to a greater number of unbound neurotransmitters for use by the brain.

These decreases in binding are often linked with positive emotions and spiritual feelings, which corresponds with the feelings that spiritual, meditative and religious retreats aim to invoke in those who embark on them.

"Our study showed significant changes in dopamine and serotonin transporters after the seven-day retreat, which could help prime participants for the spiritual experiences that they reported," Newber said, according to Science Daily.

More specifically, dopamine is the neurotransmitter that is involved in cognition, emotion and movement. Serotonin is the transmitter responsible for emotional regulation and mood.

The study was funded by the Fetzer Institute, a private operating non-profit that partners with



PUBLIC DOMAIN

Seven day retreat was shown to change dopamine and serotonin levels.

institutions working on research into spirituality and its effects on people. The study included 14 Christian participants ages 24 to 76. The retreat they embarked on was an Ignatian retreat that included exercises began by the founder of the Jesuits, St. Ignatius Loyola.

Their days began with morning mass and then mainly consisted of silent meditation and contemplation. They then moved towards prayer and reflection and ended the day with a meeting led by a spiritual director.

After coming back from the retreat, the par-

ticipants were subjected to the dopamine and serotonin tests and were asked to complete a series of surveys about benefits they received from the retreat in a variety of areas including physical health, tension and fatigue.

"In some ways, our study raises more questions than it answers. Our team is curious about which aspects of the retreat cause the changes in the neurotransmitter systems and if different retreats would produce different results. Hopefully, future studies can answer these questions," Newber said.



# Wrap up: the latest in technology...

By WILLIAM XIE  
Staff Writer

## Uber now banned in Italy

On Friday, an Italian court decided that Uber created unfair competition and banned the transportation company in Italy. The ruling came from a lawsuit filed by Italy's taxi associations. The ban will not only prohibit Uber from running its service in Italy, but will also prohibit its advertisements in Italy.

According to Reuters, Uber's Italian branch said they were "shocked" by the ruling and will likely appeal.

In other European nations, Uber service is limited, but Italy was the first to completely disallow the service.

## U.N. report shows global renewable energy increase

According to a recent U.N. report, the world set a record increase in renewable energy capacity in 2016. The total cost of the renewable investments was about a quarter lower than that of last year due to the decreasing cost of renewable energy. Projected costs decreased faster than expected for wind; The cost of offshore wind power decreased by a third since 2012.

The report also notes that although costs have plummeted, major nations are scaling back investments in renewables. The majority of the reduction in investments is due to reduced costs and a drop in demand for electricity. Mandated government standards, the use of more LEDs and other factors led to the decline in electricity demand. Advocates of the Paris Agreement, which many nations of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change signed, worry the drop in investment in renewables can be a step backwards in fighting global warming.

"Things are heading the right way, and the learning and technical costs of renewables have done a large part of their job. But investments are not yet there to meet the structural change agreed in Paris," Ulf Moslener, a co-author of the report, said, according to *BBC News*.

## Congresswoman pushes to restore privacy protections

Congresswoman Jacky Rosen recently introduced H.R. 1868, an appeal to require broadband services to adhere to privacy rules adopted by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in October of 2016. The bill would reverse the recently passed S.J. Res. 34 that strips internet privacy protections. The proposal was cosponsored by two other congressmen.

"As someone who has first-hand experience as a computer programmer, I know that keeping privacy protections in place is essential for safeguarding vulnerable and sensitive data from hackers," Congresswoman Rosen said in a press release.

## YouTube requires 10,000 views for partner program

YouTube recently changed its rules for channels to collect monetary ad revenue. New channels must get 10,000 lifetime views before they can partner with YouTube to earn money. The new requirement will reduce inappropriate content and the number of fake channels.

"After a creator hits 10k lifetime views on their channel, we'll review their activity against our policies," Ariel Bardin, vice president of product management at Youtube, wrote in a blog post. "If everything looks good, we'll bring this channel into YPP [YouTube Partner Program] and begin serving ads against their content."

# Yellow fever plagues Brazilian monkeys



WALDENER ENDO/CC-BY-2.5  
The population of the brown howler monkey has diminished in Brazil.

By RACHEL HUANG  
For *The News-Letter*

In accordance with current trends of animal endangerment, the brown howler monkey community has lost thousands of members. The brown howler is a New World monkey native to southeastern Brazil that has recently experienced declines in population due to mortality from yellow fever exposure.

Yellow fever is an infectious disease that affects both humans and nonhuman primates and is transmitted by mosquitoes that feed on infected primates.

The disease is quite prevalent in the tropical and subtropical regions of South America and Africa. In

comparison to previously conducted censuses.

Additionally, the team wants to study the way in which the remaining monkeys deal with the aftermath of the yellow fever wave, particularly the regrouping and restructuring of a society.

"I am very surprised at the speed with which the outbreak is advancing through the landscape and by how the virus can jump from one patch of forest to another, even if they are hundreds of meters apart. It is also surprising that it is spreading across such a large geographic region," Mendes said in a press release.

But yellow fever has not only been affecting the brown howler monkeys. As of mid-March,

"I am very surprised at the speed with which the outbreak is advancing through the landscape."

— SÉRGIO LUCENA MENDES,  
UNIVERSIDADE FEDERAL DE ESPÍRITO SANTO

humans, symptoms range from fever to severe liver disease coupled with bleeding. Since late 2016, a group of brown howler monkeys inhabiting a private, federally-protected reserve has been decimated by a wave of yellow fever. This is alarming, especially considering the fact that such a drastic drop in monkey population from disease is unprecedented.

The Feliciano Miguel Abdala Private Natural Heritage Reserve which houses these monkeys is four square miles of green, landlocked by agricultural and pasture lands. The isolation of the reserve brings into question the method by which the yellow fever reached the piece of land.

"It was just silence, a sense of emptiness. It was like the energy was sucked out of the universe," Karen Strier, an anthropological professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, said upon her visit to the reserve in January 2017.

Strier leads a team of scientists that include Sérgio Lucena Mendes, an animal biology professor at the Universidade Federal de Espírito Santo, and Carla Possamai, a former postdoctoral researcher at the same university. Together, they plan to census the remaining monkeys at the reserve and analyze the data in

zilian health officials had confirmed 150 human deaths among 400 cases of the disease. An additional 900 cases are yet to be confirmed, and there is mounting concern over the disease's spread to cities. For now, the disease is fairly localized, with most cases taking place within Minas Gerais, the state where the brown howler monkey reserve is located.

Efforts to provide protection to the monkeys have begun with educating the public about the monkeys' role in warning humans about the presence of a pathogen.

At the moment, there are not many estimates regarding the future of the brown howler monkeys, but Strier's experience with the critically-endangered muriqui monkey has validated the possibility that decimated populations might recover under much protection.

Despite the effects of yellow fever on the brown howler monkeys, their partial elimination allows Strier to study the behavior of the muriqui monkeys in the absence of their main competitors. Thus, although the decline in population may be a grim discovery, it simultaneously paves the way for new discoveries to be made.

# Social isolation found to worsen common cold

SICK FROM B7  
health. However, prior experiments proving that loneliness is risk factor for poor health have not looked at "patient reported outcomes" (PROs).

In clinical trials, researchers use PROs as questionnaires to help assess how well a therapeutic treatment works and to guarantee that patients will receive the best quality of care. PROs are also an important consideration for physicians when they treat their patients. Rather than treating each patient as a problem that needs to be solved, it may be more beneficial to understand the patients' goals and the quality of life after treatment.

The researchers found that one of the contributing factors to common illnesses and diseases is an aspect of the patient's quality of life — how lonely a patient is.

"Loneliness puts people at risk for premature mortality and all kinds of other physical illnesses," LeRoy said. In the study "But nothing had been done to look at an acute but temporary illness that we're all vulnerable to, like the common cold."

The study, published in the journal *Health Psychology*, focused on differentiating between loneliness, social isolation and the two factors' independent effects on the severity of the patient's cold symptoms. It also studied whether loneliness or social isolation has a greater effect on the severity of a patient's cold.

Two hundred thirteen patients completed the Short Loneliness Scale (LON), a 20-item metric designed to measure one's subjective feelings of loneliness as well as feelings of social isolation.

Participants also filled out the Social Network Index, an assessment that takes into account both the quantity and quality of relationships.

"This paper is about the quality of your relationships, not the quantity," LeRoy said in the

study. "You can be in a crowded room and feel lonely. That perception is what seems to be important when it comes to these cold symptoms."

The researchers then gave the study participants nasal drops so that they inhaled a rhinovirus, the infectious agent for common colds.

The team quarantined the infected patients for five days. During the quarantine, patients self-reported how they felt and how they thought they were doing while the team monitored heart rate, temperature and blood pressure.

"A predisposition, whether it's physical or mental, can be exaggerated by a subsequent stressor," Chris Fagundes, a Rice University psychologist, said. "In this case, the subsequent stressor is getting sick, but it could be the loss of a loved one, or getting breast cancer, which are subjects we also study."

Fagundes explained that this study's specific focus makes it unique.

"It's all about a particular predisposition (loneliness) interacting with a particular stressor," he said.

Based on the results from 160 patients, the researchers concluded that if a patient gets sick when they're feeling lonelier, they are at higher risk for more severe symptoms.

They found that it was not how many people patients counted among their close friends but rather how well they could count on those people and how close they felt to those people that indicated how lonely a patient felt.

Additionally, the researchers discerned that self-perception based loneliness, rather than standard and objectively measured social isolation, contributed greater to risk of feeling severely ill.

"We think this is important, particularly because of the economic burden associated with the common cold," LeRoy said. "Millions of people miss work each year because of it. And that has to do with how they feel, not necessarily with how much they're blowing their noses."

The researchers suggest that being more socially active could have a positive impact on a patient's physiological health. For those that have chronic illnesses and feel worse every time they fall ill compared to their peers, researchers recommend evaluating the social aspects of life.

"If you build those networks — consistently working on them and your relationships — when you do fall ill, it may not feel so bad," LeRoy said.



PUBLIC DOMAIN  
The severity of a patient's cold and how often they are sick is linked to social isolation and loneliness.



## SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY

# Species diet shown to affect brain size



PUBLIC DOMAIN

Fruit-consuming species must use more brain power to find food.

By ANNA CHEN  
For The News-Letter

A new study has found that certain species may be more intelligent because of their diet. The discovery has thrown into question the scientific consensus that a species' sociality determines its intelligence.

The scientific community considers primates to be some of the most intelligent animals. Their use of tools and complex cognition sets them apart. Their intelligence and resourcefulness is attributed to their large brains.

For many years, the social brain hypothesis, which states that humans and other primates have big brains because they live in social communities, dictated how scientists thought about evolution and the primate brain.

The social brain hypothesis suggests that the extreme social pressures and complexity of relationships that primates experience ultimately lead to their bigger brains.

Although some studies have shown that primates living in larger group sizes (thus having more complex social settings) have larger brains, other studies that observed how different social structures affect primate brain size have yielded different conclusions, and the accuracy of the social brain hypothesis has been questioned.

But if sociality does not drive the characteristic big-brained evolution of primates, then what does?

Recent findings by a group of anthropologists at New York University (NYU) may provide an answer. Their results, soon to be published in the journal *Nature Ecology & Evolution*, show that both human and non-human primate brain evolution is mainly influenced by diet.

The researcher team, led by NYU doctoral candidate Alexandra DeCasien and Assistant Professor of Anthropology Scott Williams, conducted a study more extensive than any previous study done on primate brain size. They examined more than 140 primate species, over three times as many as used in previous studies, and included some of the most recent phylogenies (branches in the evolutionary tree).

They tested food consumption and measures of sociality across each of

these species, looking at folivores (leaf-eating species), frugivores (fruit-eating species), frugivores/folivores (leaf- and fruit-eating species) and omnivores (leaf, fruit- and meat-eating species). They examined these groups in the context of varied group sizes, social structures and mating systems.

After controlling for body size and phylogeny, the researchers found that frugivores, frugivores/folivores and omnivores have significantly larger brains than folivores, with frugivores having slightly larger brains than omnivores. Contrary to the social brain hypothesis, sociality does not affect brain size as much as diet does.

The average Hopkins students may be tempted to run to the supermarket and buy food high in protein, but it is not that simple. The researchers at NYU explain that their results do not apply to diet change on an individual level.

That is, there is no association between brain size and the consumption of fruit or protein on an intra-species level. Therefore, eating more fruit and protein as an individual will not increase one's brain size.

Instead, the evidence they have found is relevant to inter-species diet differences. The fact that some species of primates have larger brains can be explained by the cognitive complexity required by certain species to obtain the foods that they generally eat.

For example, lead author DeCasien explains that fruit is less common than leaves because it is grown seasonally.

Therefore, primate species that eat fruit often have to maneuver in tricky places and then strategically remove protective shells or skins.

"Together, these factors may lead to the need for relatively greater cognitive complexity and flexibility in frugivorous species," she said in a press release.

Although we may not be able to become more intelligent simply by changing our diets, this study has important implications in the fields of anthropology and ecology. Not only does it credibly disprove the long-standing social brain theory, but it also revolutionizes the way scientists will study and view evolution and the brain.

# Students present research at annual conference

CONFERENCE FROM B7

decrease both food insecurity and intake of added sugars, fats and processed foods.

The study asked residents of two public housing blocks in Baltimore. Some had a personal vehicle, some did not. The participants were asked how many fruits and vegetables they had eaten in the past two weeks. They were also asked if they had difficulty accessing food. In other words, the study essentially asked people if they were food-secure.

What they found was surprising. The subjects consumed fruits and vegetables and added fats and sugars in about the same amount, regardless of access to a personal vehicle. But the researchers were correct in hypothesizing that those with personal vehicles were approximately 20 percent more food-secure.

Nevertheless, food insecurity is not at all an issue that can be written off, as over 50 percent of people with personal vehicles still felt food-insecure.

This suggests that health and nutrition are



COURTESY OF SANDRA HONG

Members of the Public Health Student Forum staff pose with keynote speaker, Dr. Joshua Sharfstein.

less affected by access to healthy food than they are by the costs of more nutritious foods.

Soon after the poster presentations, the lunch roundtable discussions began. One of the leaders of the roundtable discussion, Special Projects Director of the Baltimore City Health Department Kelleigh Eastman spoke about just how much the Health Department does

in Baltimore and how many areas it governs in Baltimore.

"In the future, we hope to keep bringing compelling speakers to the conference and to make it more popular with the student body by advertising more widely and by expanding our connections with the Bloomberg School and the [Public Health] Department," Radhakrish-

nan said.

Overall, with more attendees than previous years, organizers stated that the event was a big success.

"The point of the conference is to give students a forum to learn more about public health in a dynamic and exciting way, and I think we absolutely succeeded with that," Radhakrishnan said.

# NASA evaluates space farming development

By ISAAC CHEN  
For The News-Letter

U.S. President Donald Trump recently signed a \$19.5-billion bill to fund the programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), including NASA's long-term goal to send humans to Mars by the 2030s.

According to *The Washington Post*, this is "the first such authorization bill for the space agency in seven years."

In light of the recent authorization bill, one of the first questions many might ask is: How can people be kept alive and healthy in those extreme environments?

One promising method is growing plants. Plants are a valuable resource for oxygen, water recycling and food, and that makes them the ideal candidates for humans' food source on an alien planet.

In a recent review article, "Agriculture for Space: People and Places Paving the Way," Ray Wheeler of NASA's Kennedy Space Center identifies some international research groups and

their contributions to the development of space agriculture.

According to the article, he believes that research in space agriculture "has provided an intellectual and collegial bridge between the aerospace and agricultural communities."

One of the earliest investigations into space agriculture began in the 1950s and 1960s. Biologist Jack Myers and his colleagues conducted research on algae, particularly a single-celled green algae called *Chlorella*, for oxygen production and carbon dioxide removal.

Yet, turning algae into food proved to be a major challenge, because they were too rich in protein and nucleic acids for a balanced diet.

At around the same time, Russian researchers Iosif (Joseph) Gitelson and Genrich (Henry) Lisovsky in Krasnoyarsk, Siberia created a closed environment where three men were able to live for up to four to six months with plants providing "70% of the food, 100% of O<sub>2</sub>, 100% of [carbon dioxide] scrubbing, and

100% of the water regeneration," according to Wheeler's review. They became the founding fathers of bioregenerative research.

Later, during the 1980s, NASA started the Controlled Ecological Life Support Systems (CELSS) program to conduct bioregenerative research focused on growing crops including wheat, soybeans and potatoes in a closed environment.

This program led to the testing of LEDs on agriculture in 1990. Since then, the LED lighting technique has become popular, particularly during the past decade. This provides an example of transmitting advances in space agriculture to terrestrial agriculture.

In the early 2000s, the Japanese Closed Ecological Experimental Facility (CEEFF) in Aomori Prefecture also designed an environment where two crew members called EcoNauts and two small goats lived for four weeks with the crops providing all the oxygen and water and almost all the food.

Most recently in the

space agriculture community, Professor Hong Liu and her team from the University of Beijing constructed a more complex closed system, the Lunar Palace I, that converts waste into soil-like substrates for growing plants. This system supported three humans for 105 days.

Wheeler provided a short and informative history on the development of space agriculture, which also includes the results of each decade's effort to create novel technology in our society, including vertical farming and new ways of controlling water delivery.

"Dr. Ray Wheeler has written a compelling and complete history of the people that have committed their careers to enabling the colonization of space," Gary W. Stutte, NASA's principal investigator, said according to Science Daily. "The review underscores that the answers will be achieved not through proclamation but through collaboration between nations, cooperation between people and sustained commitment by institutions."

# Study lists lead oxide as major health hazard

LEAD FROM B7

of appetite, abdominal pain, vomiting, brain damage, muscle weakness and organ damage.

Since lead is a neurotoxic chemical, too much exposure may cause severe learning disabilities, along with permanent and irreversible deficiencies in brain functioning.

Extremely high exposures to lead that result in a blood lead level of 100 micrograms per deciliter or more are likely to result in convulsions, coma and death.

Despite these adverse effects, the chelation therapy is used when blood lead level exceeds 45 micrograms per deciliter.

This treatment injects ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA) into the bloodstream, which then latches onto the heavy metals and removes them from the body.

However, the damage to the nervous system might still remain.

"The cognitive deficits associated with lead persisted for decades and showed in the kinds of occupations people got," Aaron Reuben, Duke University psychology graduate student, said, according to an article entitled "Lead exposure in childhood linked to lower IQ, lower status jobs, as adults" in Science Daily.



PUBLIC DOMAIN

Exposure to airborne lead oxide can lead to lower IQ in children.



## SPORTS

# Tennis teams split weekend matchups



HOPKINSSPORTS.COM

Both the men and women beat Muhlenberg but fell to Carnegie Mellon.

By GREGORY MELICK  
For The News-Letter

This weekend, both the men's and women's tennis teams took trips up to Pennsylvania for matches against the Muhlenberg College Mules on Saturday and the Carnegie Mellon University Tartans on Sunday.

In the Saturday Centennial Conference action against the Mules, both the men's and women's teams won 9-0.

For the men, it increased their winning streak to start the season to seven games, and for the women it was their eighth win in a row after getting off to a slow 1-4 record to open the year.

The Sunday match against the Tartans brought the women's eight-game winning streak to an end, as the Blue Jays lost 7-2.

The senior pair of Ashnaa Rao and Mikey Barthelma won at first doubles, but Hopkins lost at second and third doubles and was down 2-1 going into singles play.

Singles play would end up hurting the Blue Jays, as they lost five of the six singles matchups. Sophomore Kimberly Zou was the only winner for Hopkins, as she won 6-3, 6-2 at fifth.

The men's matchup was much closer and was a back and forth battle until the very end against seventh-ranked Carnegie Mellon.

In doubles, Hopkins started strong, with seniors Mike Buxbaum and Jeremy Dubin winning at first and senior Emerson Walsh and junior Justin Kang winning at second to give the Blue Jays an early 2-0 lead. Sophomore Scott Thygesen and junior David Perez could not keep the momentum going, however, as they lost at third 8-5.

The singles matchups were all hotly contested, as all six matchups either went to three sets or required a tiebreaker. At first, Buxbaum split the first two sets with the Tartans' Daniel Levine and was up 4-0 in the third when he was forced to retire due to a

bad ankle injury.

At second, Dubin overcame losing the first set to eventually win the matchup 4-6, 6-4, 6-1. With Hopkins leading 3-2, Carnegie Mellon tied it up with a come-from-behind victory by Chaz Downing over Thygesen in three sets.

The best of nine had turned into a best of three, and Carnegie Mellon took their first lead of the match when Hopkins freshman Cody Kim could not overcome losing the first set on tiebreaker. Kim lost the second set 6-3, and Hopkins had to win both of their last two matchups to pull out the win.

Walsh kept hope alive for the Blue Jays as he won at fifth 7-6 (4), 1-6, 6-4 to tie it up at four and bring it down to the matchup at fourth.

"After I saw Jeremy [Dubin] won his third set, I knew we only needed

**"Losing Mike [Buxbaum] is absolutely a huge blow to us, there's no denying it"**  
—EMERSON WALSH,  
MEN'S TENNIS

Perez against Carnegie Mellon's Kenny Zheng.

While Perez won the first set 7-6 (0), Zheng won sets two and three to secure the hard-fought victory for the Tartans.

The 5-4 loss was disappointing for the Jays, especially because of the unfortunate ending for Mike Buxbaum. The ankle injury was devastating, not only for that matchup, but for the rest of their season in general.

"Losing Mike [Buxbaum] is absolutely a huge blow to us, there's no denying it. He's not only our top spot in singles and doubles, but our leader on and off the court. However, we're a very deep team, and we can still find a way to win big matches," Walsh said.

One of those big matches, as Walsh mentioned, comes this Friday, April 14 against the Emory University Eagles. Emory enters the match ranked first in the country, so it will be a huge test for Hopkins, especially without their proven leader.

# The magic of attending an Orioles game



Andrew Johnson  
Comrade's Corner

This is Birdland. That is the sign that greets you as you walk down Eutaw Street toward Oriole Park at Camden Yards. Birdland has become more than a slogan for the Baltimore Orioles, it has become a rallying cry, a way of life and a part of our city's identity.

Baltimore is home to two proud franchises, the Ravens and the Orioles, who have offered the people of Baltimore hope as the city has grappled with disinvestment and the decline of industry. Like a phoenix rising out of the ashes, the Orioles have experienced a profound resurgence in recent seasons.

Not too long ago, it appeared that the O's would never sniff the playoffs again. The big-spending New York Yankees and the Boston Red Sox battled for American League (AL) East supremacy for nearly two decades.

Between 1997 and 2012, the Orioles failed to qualify for the postseason, and since 1983 they have not won a World Series or claimed an AL Pennant. It seemed like the team would never be relevant again, but the era of *Moneyball* has been very good to the game of baseball, and that includes the Baltimore Orioles.

The advanced metrics revolution pioneered by Oakland Athletics General Manager (GM) Billy Beane has swept across baseball. As teams like the Yankees, Dodgers and Angels were signing aging players in free agency to bloated 10-year contracts, small market teams became competitive again.

The recipe for small market success is excellent drafting and development of homegrown talent, shrewd trades

and signings of low risk, high upside free agents. Teams like the Pittsburgh Pirates, Kansas City Royals, Tampa Bay Rays, Cleveland Indians and the aforementioned Orioles have broken through with postseason success in recent seasons after long droughts.

The Royals made the playoffs for the first time since 1985, when they claimed a wild card spot in 2014 and followed that up with an AL Central crown and a World Series Championship in 2015. In 2013 the Pirates qualified for the postseason for the first time since 1992 and then again in 2014 and 2015.

The Rays qualified for the postseason four times since 2008, managing to beat out both the Yankees and Red Sox for the AL East crown twice during that stretch. Just last season, the Indians made it to the World Series where they nearly dispatched the Chicago Cubs but ultimately let a 3-1 lead slip away.

All of these organizations relied on excellent young stars, experienced bullpen arms and talented managers to break their postseason slumps and contend against large market organizations. The formula for the Orioles' resurgence has centered around a similar approach.

The team ushered in change when it hired manager Buck Showalter in 2010. Inheriting a 32-73 club during mid season, Showalter would win 34 of his first 57 games to close out the year. The Orioles would break their postseason slump in 2012, when they won 93 games and claimed an AL Wild Card bid.

This year also marked the debut of phenom third baseman Manny Machado, who has become a perennial All-Star and MVP candidate for the O's. Then, in 2014, the Orioles would claim a division title behind Nelson Cruz's 40 home runs and Adam Jones' breakout season.



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A beautiful night at Camden Yards in Baltimore, home of the Orioles.

The even-year success continued for the O's in 2016, when they claimed another postseason bid on the strength of potent slugging and an excellent bullpen. Although questions concerning the starting rotation were the storyline heading into 2017, the Orioles have had remarkable success out of the gate.

In fact, first baseman Chris Davis, designated hitter Mark Trumbo, Machado and Jones form one of the most feared lineups in all of baseball.

Closer Zach Britton was absolutely automatic last season, saving 47 games and registering a minuscule 0.54 earned run average.

The starting rotation will remain an area of weakness for this team, but former first round pick Dylan Bundy has been excellent in his two starts to open the season. If the Orioles can receive quality innings from Bundy, Kevin Gausman and Wade Miley, they have a chance to be serious contenders in 2017.

Currently, at 4-2, the O's sit atop the AL East, but the Tampa Bay Rays, Boston Red Sox and New York Yankees all lurk within one and a half games.

I was lucky enough to attend a Yankees-Orioles game last weekend, where the birds won 5-4. Orioles-Yankees contests are always bittersweet for me. I grew up on the game of baseball, played it for five years and attended countless Yankee

games when I was little.

I fell in love with the Yankees of the '90s, teams which were led by Derek Jeter, Mariano Rivera and a young homegrown core. However, the team abandoned player development in the 2000s, instead opting to sign overpriced free agents.

The Yankees continued to win regularly, but it did not feel authentic. It felt like their wins were bought and solely a product of the immense economic advantage they held over other ball clubs. My interest in baseball began to dwindle. And when Jeter retired in 2014, my last remaining ties to the Yankees were severed.

I will still always love those Yankees teams, and I am happy that the Bronx Bombers have now finally committed themselves to a genuine youth movement. However, during my time at Hopkins, it is because of the Orioles that I have fallen back in love with baseball.

Camden Yards is the arguably one of the best ballparks in Major League Baseball. It is a modern baseball temple constructed in a neoclassical style that harkens back to the sport's glory days.

I live for the roar of the crowd when a ball is hit onto the party porch in right field, the condiment races on the video board and the "waves" that flow and ripple throughout the stadium during commercial breaks.

Live baseball is one of the greatest experiences in all of sports. It is quintessentially American. April is here and Birdland beckons. I hope you join me at the ballpark sometime.

# W. Lax topples Michigan, falls to Stony Brook



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The Blue Jays split their last two matches and will hope to finish strong.

W. LAX, FROM B12  
with under 10 minutes left to play.

Emily Braun would add a consolation goal for the Wolverines at the 3:52-mark, but the Jays would answer with goals from Fitzgerald and Mafucci to close out the game. After a 0-3 start to Conference play, the commanding 15-8 win was the program's first ever win in the Big Ten.

The Blue Jays, howev-

er, would falter against Stony Brook, who came into the game ranked as one of the top teams in the nation. Although Hopkins would jump to the early 1-0 lead in the game's first minute, it was the Seawolves that dominated the game early.

By the 17:32 mark, Stony Brook had taken a 5-1 lead, thanks to goals from sisters Kylie and Taryn Ohlmiller and a hat-trick from

Samantha DiSalvo. The two teams would then trade goals to close out the half, with the Jays' strikes coming from Schweitzer and Fitzgerald. The two teams would head into the locker room with the Seawolves holding an 8-3 lead.

Stony Brook opened the second half with five straight goals, bringing the score to 13-3 and effectively putting the game out of reach for the Blue Jays.

Hopkins would add a pair of consolation goals, courtesy of Schweitzer and freshman midfielder Lexi Souder, but the Seawolves would answer with three consecutive goals from DiSalvo and the Ohlmiller sisters to pull ahead 16-5.

Finney added one more goal for the Jays at the 3:55-mark to close out the scoring in a disappointing loss for the home team.

Over the course of April, the Hopkins women's lacrosse team is col-

laborating with the non-profit Reading Partners to raise money for the organization in order to promote literacy among Baltimore city school children.

As part of the Coaching for Literacy program, the team is seeking donations for every assist the team records in the month of April. In the games against Michigan and Stony Brook, the team recorded 12 assists and raised a total of \$437.

The Blue Jays next take the field in Columbus, Ohio on Saturday morning against the Ohio State Buckeyes. It will be an important Conference matchup to determine seeding for the upcoming Big Ten Tournament.

With just three games left in the regular season, the Blue Jays will look to solidify their postseason resume so that they do not have to rely on winning the Conference Championship to qualify for the NCAA Tournament in May.



## SPORTS

# Lakers in jeopardy of losing draft pick

NBA, FROM B12

the League.

So why would a Lakers team that has been desperately searching for a piece to expedite their rebuilding process deliberately hurt their chances of keeping a top-three pick? They have incidentally not surpassed 27 wins in any of the past four seasons. Recently, Julius Randle responded to the concept of "tanking" to *Lakers Nation's* Serena Winters. Tanking is a catch-all for the process of losing for favorable lottery odds.

"Tanking? We don't believe in that, us as players we go out there and compete, we do this for a living. Me personally, and I know my guys, we don't believe in going out there and trying to lose games," Randle said.

This response comes with little surprise. At the highest level of professional play, athletes will always give their full effort, and surely nothing less is expected. But that doesn't mean there aren't ways to demonstrably decrease one's chances of winning.

I'm not a basketball coach, but giving the guys at the end of the bench, like Metta World Peace or Corey Brewer, some extra minutes at the end of games would go a long way to securing much-needed losses. And yet, Luke Walton and the rest of the Lakers management sees no such urgency to do so.

One might wonder: How did the Lakers land in such a miserable position? To put it tersely: The Lakers' front office's breathtaking stupidity.

The Steve Nash and Dwight Howard trades of 2012 were both earth-shattering disasters for the storied franchise, bringing both players to Los Angeles to team up with Bryant.

But Howard fled to Houston after a year, and Nash, much to no one's surprise, struggled mightily to stay healthy after 16 prolific NBA seasons, retiring even before his contract ended. In retrospect, the idea of a super-team consisting of the two equally massive egos in Kobe and Howard, along with a hobbled Nash, was absurd, and it cost the Lakers their future.

In these ultimately fruitless trades, the Lakers traded their 2013 first- and second-round picks, a 2015 first-round pick they luckily retained (it was top-five protected) and another future first-round pick, which will likely be this year's pick (top-three pro-

tected).

Liberally trading away future picks for aging stars was an act of seppuku for the Lakers' post-Bryant era, which had been ominously looming since he tore his Achilles tendon at the end of the 2012-2013 season. And now, as the Lakers flounder about, stumbling upon the untimeliest success possible, they seem poised finally to pay for their "win-now" philosophy.

Of course, it is impossible to know whether or not the ping pong balls will fall favorably in the upcoming Draft Lottery, but considering the current odds assigned to the third-worst team, the Lakers have over a 50 percent chance of conveying their pick to the Philadelphia 76ers (to whom it was traded by the Phoenix Suns).

Interestingly, in late February, the typically out-of-touch Lakers ownership made a move that honestly was long overdue. They cleaned house almost entirely. Longtime Lakers General Manager Mitch Kupchak and Head of Basketball Operations Jim Buss were both fired.

Subsequently, Jeanie Buss, part-owner and sister of Jim Buss, gave the reigns of decision-making to Magic Johnson, as new head of basketball operations. Shortly thereafter, longtime agent (and Kobe Bryant's confidant) Rob Pelinka was brought on as general manager.

While these moves were encouraging at the time, the post-Jerry Buss Lakers management seems to have a knack for obfuscating their future. And while Magic Johnson and Rob Pelinka are both big names, neither seems concerned about the Lakers tallying meaningless wins at the end of a lost season.

Until the ping pong balls have decided the fates of those 14 NBA bottom-feeders, it is impossible to know whether the Purple and Gold will finally pay for their negligence during the last four seasons. The math says they are likely to lose the pick, but of course, not all hope is lost.

Come mid May, when all those team representatives are nervously huddled in the lottery room, where fates are decided by a souped-up bingo machine full of ping pong balls, Magic Johnson will most likely be in the room representing the Lakers.

Magic might be exactly what the Lakers need.

By COURTNEY COLWELL  
For *The News-Letter*

This past weekend, the men's and women's track & field teams headed to Fairfax, Virginia to compete in the George Mason Spring Invitational. Though the competition was exceptional, the Jays kept pace with the numerous D-I schools in the field.

On the men's side, freshman PJ Murray was named the Centennial Track Athlete of the Week for his seventh place finish in the 5,000-meter race. With a time of 14:55.98, Murray ran the 30th fastest time among D-III athletes this season.

For the women, sophomore Felicia Koerner had a stellar performance in the 1,500-meter race. Clocking a time of 4:28.81, Koerner finished in sixth place and posted the second-best time in D-III this season. She too would earn Centennial Track Athlete of the Week, alongside Murray.

But this week, we welcome a newcomer to *Colwell's Court*. Setting the Hopkins program outdoor record in the pole vault, freshman Sophia Cortazzo is chosen as this week's Athlete of the Week.

In a short amount of time, Cortazzo has managed to make huge contributions to the Hopkins track & field team. She is a consistent performer and has had top three finishes in three different competitions thus far in her rookie season. This includes the 2017

Centennial Conference Indoor Championships, where she finished third.

Following her record-setting eighth place finish this weekend, Cortazzo sat down with *The News-Letter* to discuss the team's trip down to the George Mason Invitational and provided insight into her experience adjusting to collegiate-level competition.

**The News-Letter:** Was the team happy with its performance this weekend?

**Sophia Cortazzo:** Overall, the team had a great weekend! It is still the beginning of the outdoor season, so we are off to a great start, and we are especially looking forward to our home meet next weekend. Despite some cold and windy conditions during many of the events this weekend, a lot of teammates had amazing performances.

**N-L:** This weekend's invitational included a large number of D-I competition. How did you approach this challenge? Did this fact affect your mindset going into the meet?

**SC:** I was not thinking much about the D-I athletes I would be competing against. Rather, I was more focused on my own performance.

Although track is very much a team sport, often times, my goal for a meet is to beat my own personal record or to work on something particular about my own jump rather than focusing on my competitors.

This weekend was my first meet of the outdoor season, so I was mostly just focusing on getting in some good jumps despite the windy weather and getting the initial nerves out.

**N-L:** How did it feel to set the outdoor program record in the pole vault?

**SC:** I was most focused on clearing 3.40 meters (roughly 11 feet 2 inches), which would beat the over-

all school record (both indoor and outdoor track) of 3.38 meters. When I just barely missed this height, I was bummed, because I am determined to

achieve that goal, but once I heard that I broke the outdoor record with my 3.25-meter jump, I was so excited! Setting this record definitely put my hard work into perspective and made me really proud.

**N-L:** How hard was it to adjust from competing at the high school level to at the collegiate level?

**SC:** It was definitely a big adjustment, but I



COURTESY OF  
SOPHIA CORTAZZO

have an amazing team and coaches here at Hopkins, which made the process of getting settled in with my new team a lot better. The lifting and running program we have been doing has made me a lot stronger and faster, which shows in my vaulting.

**N-L:** Do you have any personal goals you are hoping to achieve this year and throughout your collegiate career?

**SC:** This year I am going for the overall school record. It is within reach, and I am itching to break it. Jumping 11 feet 2 inches would be both a new freshman record and a new school record. Other than that, my main goal is to jump 12 feet, a milestone that I cannot wait to reach.

Check out this freshman star in action this Friday as Cortazzo and the Jays compete in their only home meet of the year. Events will begin at 9 a.m. at the Hopkins Eastern Campus.

## VITAL STATISTICS

**Name:** Sophia Cortazzo  
**Year:** Freshman  
**Sport:** Track & Field  
**Major:** Undecided  
**Hometown:** Warren, N.J.  
**High School:** The Pingry School

# Baseball topples the McDaniel Green Terror

By ESTHER HONG  
Staff Writer

After splitting with the Muhlenberg Mules the previous day, the Blue Jays returned to Stromberg Stadium to dominate the McDaniel College Green Terror 18-7.

"Our pitching has been strong all season, but now entering Conference play, our offense is really starting to come alive," freshman catcher Mike Ainsworth said. "These past couple of weeks, the upperclassmen have really been showing off some consistent power."

After scoring 13 runs in the fifth and sixth innings, the majority of the Jays' roster had the opportunity to see some time on the field.

Hopkins first put itself on the scoreboard in the bottom of the second inning after senior catcher Ryan Orgielewicz hit a leadoff double, junior catcher Alex Darwiche singled to right field, freshman infielder Dillon Bowman walked and senior outfielder Jon Hayden reached first on a fielder's choice. With the bases loaded, Orgielewicz was able to race home after Hayden's hit.

The Blue Jays quickly racked up three more runs in the bottom of the third inning, with crucial at-bats from senior shortstop Conor Reynolds and junior third baseman Mike Smith. Orgielewicz hit a homerun to cap off the scoring streak. The Jays led 4-0.

Tallying one run in the fourth and three in

the fifth, the Green Terror drew even at 4-4 in the top of the fifth inning.

Hopkins did not let the Green Terror's scoring run discourage them. Leading off in the bottom of the fifth inning, Reynolds hit a homerun.

Next, senior outfielder Brian Lin hit a single, Smith worked a walk and Orgielewicz hit the team's second ground-rule double to send Lin home. Freshman infielder Mike Eberle reached on a fielder's choice to send Smith home.

Bowman was then hit for the second time, and the bases were loaded. Hayden came up to the plate next and drove the ball down the right field line for a double. He sent Orgielewicz and Eberle home, with Bowman nearly reaching home safe but being caught to end the inning.

In the sixth inning, the Blue Jays recorded a nine-run scoring streak. After Reynolds worked a walk, Lin hit a double to drive Reynolds home. Darwiche also hit a double to send Lin home. Another pair of doubles brought the score to 13-4.

Fighting a lingering elbow injury, senior outfielder Tommy Mee hit a single to send another Blue Jay home. Reynolds came back to the plate to hit his second homerun of the game, giving Hopkins a 17-4 lead.

"The big plays today had to come from Conor [Reynolds] and Ryan [Orgielewicz] at the plate. They combined for three home runs, which quickly changed the pace of the

game," freshman Mike Ainsworth said.

The Blue Jays did not stop there. They scored one more run in the eighth inning. With a dominating lead, the Jays' coaching staff made some lineup changes, with many freshmen making appearances. Ainsworth hit a double in his first collegiate at-bat, and junior outfielder Colby Wilson sent him home on a single.

"I am currently learning a new position, so I did not expect too many opportunities this year. I was really glad the coaches gave me a chance today. I saw a pitch I liked and I was able to get my barrel on it," Ainsworth said.

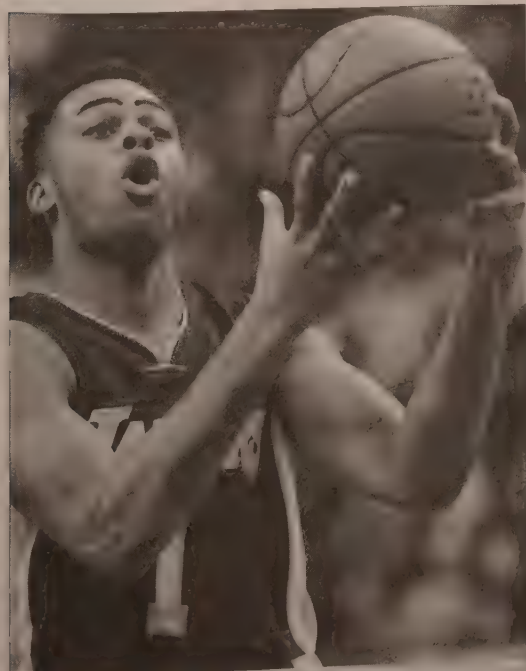
The Green Terror scored three runs in the final inning but were not able to close the gap. Hopkins ultimately won 18-7.

"Now that we are in Conference play, every game is important," Ainsworth said. "Our current

goal is to have the best record in the Conference and to host the Centennial Conference tournament, so the win today was another step in the right direction."

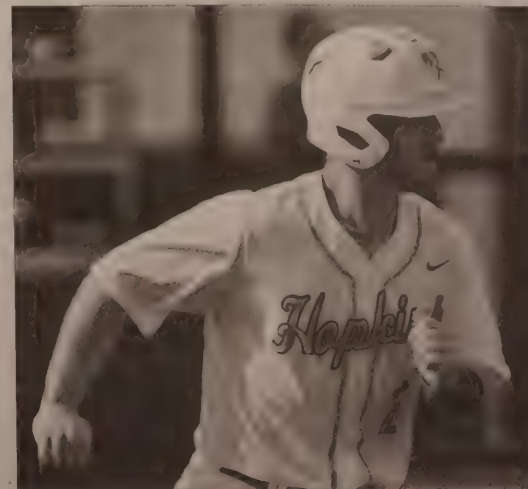
Defensively, sophomore starting pitcher Preston Betz struck out a career-high five batters in seven innings. He also earned his third win of the season. Freshman pitcher Devin Lucas pitched in the eighth inning for his first appearance on the mound at Stromberg Stadium. He struck out one hitter and gave up one hit. Senior pitcher Austin Sutor came in the final inning and finished the game with a strikeout.

"We have a very positive outlook for the rest of the season," Ainsworth said. "We believe we have one of the deeper and more talented pitching staffs in the country. If our offense is clicking as well, I think we can beat anyone."



KEITH ALLISON/CC BY-SA 2.0

Point-guard D'Angelo Russell led the Lakers' recent winning streak.



HOPKINSPORTS.COM

Senior Conor Reynolds contributed two homeruns to the Jays' win.



# SPORTS

## DID YOU KNOW?

Junior third baseman Mike Smith hit his second walk-off homerun of the season this past Monday in the come-from-behind victory against 22nd-ranked Salisbury.

## CALENDAR

Friday:  
M. Tennis vs. Haverford; 12 p.m.  
W. Tennis @ Haverford; 4 p.m.  
Track @ Mt. SAC Multis

Saturday:  
Baseball vs. Haverford; 12:30 p.m.  
M. Lax vs. Penn State; 3 p.m.

## Lakers win and put draft pick in peril

James Aiosa  
*Sportpinion*

After their win over the New Orleans Pelicans on Tuesday, the Los Angeles Lakers had officially won their last five games, leaving many fans scratching their heads.

Usually, winning is a desired outcome, but for the past several months, the Lakers have been vying with the Phoenix Suns for the second worst regular season NBA record. The prize for tanking efforts is better lottery odds, giving the Lakers a better chance at acquiring prospective franchise-changing talents such as Markelle Fultz and Lonzo Ball in this year's NBA Draft.

### The Lakers have nothing to gain by winning out the season.

After the Lakers won five games in a row, the Suns took their position of second worst and, as a result, the Lakers are now more likely to lose their lottery pick than to retain it. Because the Lakers had previously traded their first-round pick to the Suns for the 37-year-old All-Star point guard Steve Nash, who only played fragments of two disappointing and injury-riddled seasons, they will forfeit their pick if it does not fall into one of the top three slots after the

ping pong balls settle in the 2017 Draft Lottery.

This is because Lakers General Manager Mitch Kupchak traded the pick with the stipulation that should the Lakers fall within the top three lottery slots, they will retain the pick. This has added intense drama to the final games of an otherwise uninspiring season, a season in which losing games directly increases a team's chances to select first in the Draft.

While many have accused the Lakers of "tanking" these past seasons, this last three-game set is evidence to the contrary, which is plainly baffling.

The Lakers have nothing to gain by winning out the season, but have everything to lose.

They could lose

Fultz or Ball, two potential superstars and the likely number one and two picks, respectively, in the upcoming draft.

That is not to take away from the Lakers' current young core. However, there is not a single stand-out player in the Lakers at the moment. It is unclear whether any of their recent lottery selections will ever attain All-Star status. Attaining a top-three pick in this year's draft would provide the Lakers with a major upgrade within

SEE LAKERS, B11

## M. Baseball powers past the Green Terror



On Sunday, the Blue Jays baseball team played host to the McDaniel Green Terror at Stromberg Stadium. The Jays utilized their high-octane offense to score 18 runs on the day, ultimately winning the contest 18-7. Hopkins scored 13 runs combined between the fifth and sixth innings, blowing the game wide open against their Centennial Conference foe. The win moved the Jays to 19-6 on the season, which includes a 5-1 mark in the Centennial Conference. Sophomore Preston Betz struck out five over seven innings of work and earned his third win of the season. Among the offensive standouts was senior shortstop Conor Reynolds, who homered twice and paced the team's offensive outburst.

B11

## INSIDE

### This is Birdland: The Orioles' resurgence

Sports Editor Andrew Johnson talks about why the Orioles mean so much to Baltimore, the reasons for their recent success and why he has come to love baseball again after arriving to college.

PAGE B10

### Tennis teams win one, lose one this weekend

Gregory Melick recaps an eventful weekend for both the men's and women's tennis teams. They toppled the Muhlenberg Mules in a clean sweep and fell to the Carnegie Mellon Tartans in a well-fought battle.

PAGE B11

### Colwell's Court: Sophia Cortazzo

This week, *The News-Letter* highlights freshman Sophia Cortazzo, who set the Hopkins all-time record in the pole vault this past weekend at the George Mason Spring Invitational in Fairfax, Virginia.

PAGE B11

## INSIDE

## M. Lax loses Conference duel to the Buckeyes

By BRANDON WOLFE  
For The News-Letter

After traveling 423 miles to Columbus, Ohio the 11th-ranked Blue Jays men's lacrosse team faced off against the ninth-ranked Ohio State University (OSU) Buckeyes in Big Ten Conference action. The Blue Jays fell to the Buckeyes in a battle that ended in a score of 13-9.

The action did not take long to get started: Barely a minute after the opening face-off, Ohio State's Colin Chell scored an unassisted goal to kick off the scoring for the day.

Junior midfielder Joel Tinney answered with a pair of goals for the Blue Jays, both unassisted, to put the Blue Jays in the lead 2-1 midway through the first quarter.

Just five seconds after Tinney captured the lead for Hopkins, OSU's Jake Withers erased the deficit, scoring his first goal of the season.

Junior Shack Stanwick and senior John Crawley also got in on the goal parade, each adding one goal apiece to give Hopkins a two-goal lead deep

into the first quarter before the Buckeyes' Johnny Pearson capitalized on an assist from teammate Lukas Buckley, cutting the lead to just one goal.

With a little more than one minute left in the first quarter, the Blue Jays regained their two-goal lead after sophomore Alex Concannon found freshman Forry Smith, who buried his eighth goal of the season to close the first at 5-3 in favor of the visiting Blue Jays.

Just as they had in the first quarter, the Buckeyes got off to a quick start, this time sparked by a goal from Jack Jasinski three minutes into the second quarter.

Less than a minute later, Ohio State tied the game up when Austin Shanks, with some help from Chell, found the back of the net, notching the game at five apiece.

Ten seconds after the scoreboard leveled, the Buckeyes recaptured the lead when Eric Fannell delivered a pass to Pearson, who kept the momentum in favor of OSU and put the score at 6-5 in favor of the home team.



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The Blue Jays will hope to rebound against Penn State this weekend.

After eight minutes of scoreless lacrosse, the scoreboard finally lit up again, this time for the Blue Jays, as Patrick Fraser used a pass from Kyle Marr to hit the back of the mesh and put the score at six apiece.

The Blue Jays' Cody Radziewicz finished off the scoring for the half. He received a pass from Stanwick and buried the ball in the back of the net to put Hopkins back in the lead at 7-6 at halftime.

The third quarter saw very little action, but all of that action was in favor of Ohio State. Once again starting off the scoring for the quarter, it was Fannell this time who gave the Buckeyes the early momentum as the second half began.

After an 11-minute scoring drought, Buckley scored on an assist from Jasinski to give the lead back to the Buckeyes and put the score at 8-7. The Buckley-Jasinski connection resulted in another goal for the home Buckeyes, as Buckley found the back of the net with just three seconds left to finish off a quarter that was

dominated by Ohio State.

Just as they had in the first, second and third quarters, Ohio State found the net first in the fourth quarter, with Tre Leclaire scoring his 25th goal of the season as Jasinski recorded his third straight assist. Stanwick answered with his 17th goal of the season as his unassisted goal closed the deficit to 10-8 in favor of the Buckeyes.

Unsatisfied with his three straight assists, Jasinski scored the final three goals for Ohio State, recording his goal hat trick to coincide with his assist hat trick.

A goal by Kyle Marr sandwiched between Jasinski's second and third goals eased the bleeding for a while, but Jasinski's final goal sealed the game as Ohio State topped the Blue Jays 13-9.

The win puts OSU at 10-2 overall with a 1-1 record in the Big Ten, while the loss drops the Jays to 6-4 with a 1-1 record in the Big Ten. The Blue Jays will next be in action this Saturday, April 15, when they take on the Pennsylvania State University Nittany Lions at Homewood Field.

## W. Lax splits against pair of tough squads

By GAURAV VERMA  
Sports Editor

The Hopkins women's lacrosse team split their two games, defeating the University of Michigan Wolverines in a Conference matchup on Saturday, while falling to the fourth-ranked Stony Brook University Seawolves on Tuesday night. The Blue Jays now sit at 9-5 on the season, with a 1-3 record in Big Ten play.

The Wolverines raced to an early lead at Homewood field, scoring the game's first two goals and giving the visitors a 2-0 lead less than three minutes into the game. That was, however, the last lead that they would hold.

The Blue Jays knotted up the score by the 25:31 mark, thanks to a pair of goals by junior attacker CeCe Finney. Junior midfielder Shannon Fitzgerald and sophomore attacker Miranda Ibello recorded the assists. Ibello then assisted her classmate, attacker Nicole DeMase, giving Hopkins the 3-2 lead with 22:35 left to play in the first half.

The Jays would score the game's next five

goals, with strikes coming from Fitzgerald, DeMase, junior midfielder Maggie Friel, Ibello and junior attacker Emily Kenul. Michigan stopped the bleeding before the end of the half when Chandler Kirby scored with less than 25 seconds left in the half.

The Wolverines carried that momentum into the second half, scoring two goals to bring the score to 8-5 just 50 seconds after the teams returned to the field. Freshman attacker Maggie Schneidereith ended Michigan's three-goal run after faking the Wolverine goalie Alli Kothari in front of the net to make the score 9-5, with Hopkins senior Alexis Maffucci picking up the assist.

After a nine-minute scoring drought for both teams, Michigan scored a pair of goals to bring the deficit to two at the 17:42 mark. From then on out, however, the game belonged to the home team. Fitzgerald and senior midfielder Haley Schweizer each scored two goals, giving the Blue Jays a commanding 13-7 lead

SEE W. LAX, B10



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Junior Shack Stanwick scored in his 43rd straight game for the Jays.



**The Johns Hopkins News-Letter presents**

**April 13, 2017**

# The Identity Issue

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**Identity and work  
in a gentrifying  
Chinatown..14-15**

A circular collage of words and phrases related to identity and culture. The words are arranged in a circular pattern, with some words highlighted in red boxes. The words include: original identity, connections, HOME, tradition, unique, NATURAL, HISTORY, EXPERIENCE, age, Strength, relationships, education, families, employee, talent, HOME, grad, international, COMMUNITY, LGBT, global, expectations, and GENERATION. The collage is set against a background of a person's face, which is partially visible on the left side.





## Letter from the editor

Now more than ever, our resources and technology give us the ability to connect with people from across the globe. As a result, identity has become an important tool we use to define ourselves. Our unique upbringings, beliefs and attitudes allow us to stand out among all the competing voices. Identity has proven so valuable that it's even used to predict the way we buy things, the way we vote and the way we're likely to stand on certain issues.

But while specific identifiers like gender, sexuality and ethnicity, to name only a few, are important for us to define, they can also be limiting. Forcing individuals into one category can fail to capture the whole, distinct picture of who they are. Knowing that each person is complex, we decided to find out the many different ways we determine identity.

The writers and editorial staff of *The News-Letter* were asked to respond to a simple question: Who are you? We want to know the stories that only one person can tell that some in the Hopkins community may have never heard before, while others have been waiting to recognize it in print. It is our goal to bring these stories and experiences from the margins of society to the text of this publication.

We hope you enjoy it.

— Jane Jeffery,  
Magazine Editor 2016-2017

## Who are you?

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The Magazine is a special publication of *The Johns Hopkins News-Letter*, the student newspaper of Johns Hopkins University. For general inquiries or information on how to join, email [managing@jhunewsletter.com](mailto:managing@jhunewsletter.com).

*The News-Letter* can be found online at [jhunewsletter.com](http://jhunewsletter.com), in print every Thursday during the school year and on the social media sites below.

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# Making sense of my Japanese-American identity in Tokyo

By **MEAGAN PEOPLES**  
Voices Editor

When I was 11 I met my grandparents for only the third time. I had vague memories of them from my toddlerhood. Here was a grandfather with a crooked smile, a grandmother who really liked floral print, but I was keenly aware, even back then, that I didn't actually know anything about either of them. But now was my chance. I could finally know them as more than photographs and the occasional anecdote from my mother's childhood.

My mother on the plane ride over had coached me, getting me to repeat again and again the words to appropriately greet them. They felt heavy in my mouth, their foreignness giving them an almost chewy texture that caught against my teeth and garbled every sentiment I was trying to express. Stewards looked down as they passed by, smiling at my attempts, the badges on their lapels indicating that every single one was bilingual.

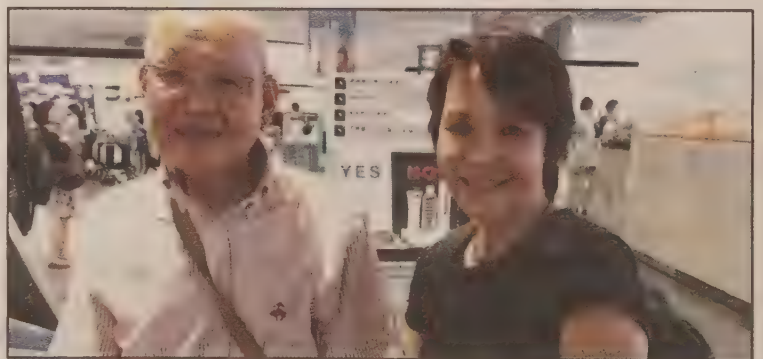
And then the moment came and,

bowing, I greeted them. They smiled and did the same back to me. And that was the end of what we could say to each other.

Of course, my mother filtered some things for me, passing along a compliment about my hair or a remark on how tall I was getting. I realized on that car ride from the airport, staring at my mother's animated gesturing as she spoke to her parents in person for the first time in over three years, that this silence was something I would have to get used to.

We had just moved to Japan. And I had come into it with the expectation that it would be like finding the other half of myself, that I would finally learn what it meant to be half-Japanese. However, I don't look Japanese, I don't speak the language, and though I may hold a passport to this country, I did not belong there. My identity was about to become "foreigner," and at the time I couldn't help but hear that as "outsider."

Though we'd moved in the middle of summer, my first day of school occurred about three months into the Japanese school year. My hair was cut to fit school regulations; I was stuffed into a bright blue uniform, and I had gotten new black shoes to match everyone else. Yet, the dress code didn't help me feel like less of an anomaly. Instead, with all other variables controlled for, it



COURTESY OF MEAGAN PEOPLES

While she may not be Japanese like her grandfather and mother, Peoples is proud of her two passports.

was even easier to notice the differences between me and the rest of my classmates.

Each day was an opportunity to screw up a little nuance of culture, and each day I learned to talk less and to ask fewer questions, to simply be less of a presence so as not to inconvenience the few people who spoke English. I was the only monolingual kid in my class.

I have lived in other places since Japan, other countries where English was not the primary language and where I wasn't able to talk to everyone I passed by on the street. But, by far, Japan was the most difficult to adapt to. Maybe it was my age, maybe it was the people I was around, but most likely it was the fact that, going in to the experience I had truly believed I was going to belong there.

Being half-Japanese wasn't something I could connect to in America; It wasn't something that was notice-

able beyond the occasional confusion about why my mother and I looked nothing alike. So going to Japan I truly hoped that I would come to understand a bit what it meant to be Japanese, that I could grab a hold of my heritage as central pillar of my identity.

And although I know many Japanese-Americans who had very different experiences living in Japan, my story isn't a particularly heartening story about how I gradually learned Japanese or made do with speaking amalgamations of the two languages, developing beautiful friendships that would last for the rest of my life. To this day, I haven't had a real conversation with my grandparents.

Living in Japan was not what I expected. And although I have come to understand that I will never be Japanese in the way that my mother or grandparents are, I am still proud of my two passports.



COURTESY OF MEAGAN PEOPLES

Living in Japan, her mother's homeland, was harder than Meagan had hoped.

## The Identity Issue

The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

April 13, 2017

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# Claiming and conquering my identity as a victim

By **DIVA PAREKH**  
Copy Editor

If you're reading this, know before you even start, that you are about to learn one of my best-kept secrets. If you already knew this, know that this means I trust you beyond belief. If I already told you this, know that you mean the world to me. You listened, and you didn't treat me any differently because of this. If you didn't know, all I can hope for is that this doesn't change the way you see me. I'm throwing it out in the open.

I was molested twice as a child. Once while I was eight and once while I was 13.

The first time, it was my friend's grandfather. The second time, it was my parents' personal trainer. I'm not going to get into the details of what actually happened. I don't know if I even can, because to describe it, I'd have to remember it. To remember it, I'd have to endure the images flashing through my mind again, and I don't know how to do that to myself, at least not yet.

The first time, I told my parents something felt strange in the way he interacted with me. I didn't even know what it was. When my parents heard, though, they knew instantly, and something happened between him and my parents that I seem to have wiped from my mind. But after that day I told them, he never touched me again.

I still saw him, though. I lived on the fifth floor, and he lived on the fourth. I saw his name on the plaque next to the elevator. I didn't take the stairs for years because I couldn't handle passing his door on my way. When he saw

me, he'd glare. It was this visceral stare that pierced me and left me shaking for hours. But nobody noticed because I'd become so good at hiding it.

The second time, I was older. I knew what was happening but couldn't stop it until it was too late. When I did, a weird kind of physical strength overcame me that I didn't know I had, and I pushed a man twice my size off me. I was afraid, this time, of telling my parents.

One of my mom's closest friends had recommended him. I was afraid she'd feel guilty. I was afraid my parents would feel responsible for having me train with him during the summer.

So instead, I force-fed myself food I knew I was allergic to. Repeatedly. For a month. So I'd stay sick, so I'd have an excuse not to see him. He was still there every morning, though. Every morning until I was 17. He'd smile at me and I'd shrivel up, I'd turn back into a child. I'd throw tantrums about things so utterly ridiculous that my parents had no idea what was happening to me.

The whole time, I had no idea why I was reacting this way; My denial went too deep. Somewhere, at the back of my mind, there the images were, but I pushed them away. It worked. I functioned like a normal teenager, for a while.

Something I read online about child molestation when I was 17 brought the memories rushing back. That's when I knew that I was too old for denial to still work. So I wrote it down, I sent it to someone I trusted. And I closed the word document. I went back into denial.

I didn't last too long, though. My friend who I sent it to told me I had to do something, that it was dangerous for the trainer to be in my home. I didn't listen.

Then a few months later, I was in an elevator with the trainer, and he smiled at me the way he did the entire way up. That's when the nightmares began. I lost my grip on reality for about three weeks.

Part of it was just because I was too afraid of the nightmares to sleep, and part of it was because the nightmares weren't specific. I was always being attacked in them, being chased. I'd hide, but they'd always find me. And when they found me, I'd realize that I knew and trusted them. I was afraid of everybody — male teachers, uncles and the worst of all, my dad.

I'd stay up for hours logically thinking through the nightmares. Analyzing each scene, picking it apart until I found something unrealistic that showed me it was a nightmare and not a memory. I told another friend. She sat next to me while I emailed that word document to my therapist.

Therapy, after everything that happened, was the hardest thing I've ever done. I don't remember a single session I didn't cry. I still wasn't strong enough to tell my parents, so she told them while I was in math class, and I came in after. My dad was crying; My mom didn't speak. The weekend after that, my parents would just start crying at random times during the day because they blamed themselves.

That was exactly what I was afraid of; That's what I didn't want. I told them not to confront the trainer, to just send him a text saying they didn't want to continue with him. And that was it. I never saw him again except in the images that flash through my head.

It's hard to avoid things like this, though. In Bystander Intervention Training (BIT), they told me to write down a place where I felt completely safe on a

piece of paper. Mine was blank. They told me to write the name of a person I trusted with my deepest secret and then crumple it, to prove some sort of point about how sexual assault stays with you forever, changing your relationships with those you trust. Like I didn't already know that.

They always tell you to report. I was too scared to. And I was afraid that made me a bad person. What if the trainer did the same thing to another girl? What if I could have prevented it? That thought haunts me even now.

I'd lie in bed for hours just thinking, confused about why someone would do something like that. The grandfather with a granddaughter my age. The trainer with a three-year-old daughter.

I say "situation," I say "what happened" instead of using the actual words to describe it. It's because I still don't want to accept it. I wrote this article knowing that by the end I'd have to accept it. And even in the process of writing it, I'm delaying that moment.

So I'm going to rip the bandage off; It's the only way I can force myself to do this.

I identify as a victim of childhood sexual molestation.

There, I said it. It's in writing. That's how this process began, and that's how it's going to end. And believe me, I want this to end. I want the nightmares to end. I want to be able to study *Lolita* for my English class and still be able to fall asleep the next night. I want to be able to feel safe even when I'm not carrying pepper spray in my backpack.

The thing I have to accept, though, is that it isn't going to end. It's going to stay with me all my life, and that's okay, because pain like this doesn't just go away.







## Moving past my mother's disapproval of my sex life

By NEHAL AGGARWAL  
For *The News-Letter*

I sat on my mom's bed in my sleep-shirt, sobbing uncontrollably. She asked me again and again what was wrong. I had only been home from school for two days, surely nothing could have happened in those two days to upset me so much.

I can't explain where it came from. Maybe it was the inability to cope with my first broken heart. Maybe it was the sheer hope that she would look past it, hug me and comfort me because after all I was her daughter, and that should mean more than anything else. It didn't though. The words just fell out and once they were there I couldn't take them back.

I couldn't hide them or make her forget I had said them. I couldn't do anything except let them shape our relationship the way they would.

In a world where feminism is everyday and female empowerment is on the frontlines of journalism, it may seem unfathomable that having sex before marriage is still an issue in some cultures — but it is.

My mom is a fairly modern woman. She supports my education, aspires for me to be financially independent, and,

although she is skeptical about my pursuing journalism as a career because I may not be able to achieve financial independence for a long time, she supports it.

Any time I joke that I can just get married off if I never get a job she hangs up the phone. She believes in my passions as much as I believe in them myself.

Despite all this, she cannot understand that her ideals and mine, when it comes to relationships, don't add up. In her mind, a relationship should be what it was in the 1950s. You go out on dates; The boy drops you home at

a reasonable hour and tries nothing more than a respectable peck on the cheek.

Our relationship, though it may seem the same to her, has changed dramatically for me over the course of the past three years. I have let go of the desire to make her proud because no matter what academic and career successes I may find, I will always have a giant, red A on my chest.

Instead of telling me that it was okay, that I would be okay, she reproached me for feeling like I was old enough to make such a big decision. This perplexed me to no end because the decision to have sex SHOULD be yours — and

yours only.

Instead of accepting me, she asked me if I had used condoms and then proceeded to explain to me why sex leads to STDs. In her mind, even STIs count as STDs, because once you have had one, you have it for life — the rules of modern medicine be damned.

My fear of STIs has controlled me. Every time I have sex, I worry for hours that I may have contracted something. HelWell has my name and birthdate down pat because I get tested so frequently.

The point is that instead of supporting me, taking me to get birth control, buying me a box of condoms, she did the sheer opposite. She thwarted all my attempts to get the pill because I didn't need it because I would not be having sex again.

She didn't understand that being sexually active involves a gray scale, that having sex, in typical circumstances, is a decision one chooses to make. She didn't understand that once that decision has been taken once, it would probably be taken again.

This shame, guilt and fear of pregnancy and STIs has stayed with me throughout college. Although my mom is not someone I can share any of my concerns with or talk about boys with, she did teach me a valuable lesson.

She taught me to be honest and cautious — probably a little too cautious. Her anxiety about sexual health has taught me to be careful about my own.

I have learned to accept that her anxieties and lack of ability to accept stems for a cultural divide that I may never be able to understand.

Those who know me know that my feelings surrounding Indian culture are not positive ones. Growing up I always felt very caught between Indian and American culture, and I spent a good part of my life trying to figure out where I fit.

This experience with my mom has certainly helped me figure out where I land between the two. I now know myself well enough to know what I am willing to apologize for, and not being a virgin is not one of those things.







# Finding humor and humanity in the Catholic Church

By **VERONICA REARDON**  
Your Weekend Editor

My family is deeply religious. My father's side is wholly Irish Catholic. My mother's side is not Irish, but my grandparents on her side were sure as hell Catholic, and, of course, so is she. I believe we may have some Baptists in the family somewhere but I have not heard much about that.

Sitting in church is one of my earliest memories. My siblings and I would crawl around on the old red carpet as much as we were allowed to, scorning the pews until we were too old to go unnoticed. We would do this, and afterward we would go to Parish School of Religion.

My years there went as follows: in second grade, I learned such classics as the Nicene Creed, the Hail Mary and one particularly creative (or unfortunate) boy named Christian's "Washing Machine Song." If you don't know the song, it goes like this: "Washing machine, the washing machine, I hope my mom doesn't put me in the dryer" sung over and over until you have been hit rather hard, probably in the face.

In seventh grade, I witnessed a boy named Jesse bite another boy on the shoulder for no discernible reason. In retrospect, he was probably possessed, but be fair, you don't learn exorcisms until eighth grade in normal Catholic curriculums, so we couldn't have done anything about it. He moved to Arizona soon after that, or so I heard.

In ninth grade, during Confirmation Class, I was taught to summon the Holy Spirit with my fingers in a triangle in front of my face intoning "Come, Holy Spirit." I never managed to do it long enough without laughing to actually summon the Holy Spirit, but according to our teacher it was very effective when you did it right.

After teaching us this, she then said with a straight face that she did not see how anyone could call the Catholic Church a cult. She later showed us a video

about all the rusty tools people always use to do abortions.

These things and the many other parts of PSR and the Church played an integral part in forming my first framework for understanding the world. Religion was a part of my life; My siblings and I lived within it, did all the silly things kids do all the time in that world, knew a community of people and still have shared memories from it.

Eventually I graduated from Confirmation Class, smiling and shaking the hand of a bishop who not much later had to resign after a child pornography scandal.

Church changed for me once I was done with PSR. Instead of the prelude to an occasionally disturbing and much more often deathly boring hour and a half, it was the main show. I began almost enjoying it. It was pleasant to be awake early in the morning, and quiet time in Mass was the perfect time to reflect. At that time we were also fortunate enough to have a priest who was extremely articulate, funny and well spoken, which made sermons usually pretty decent to listen to.

The parish moved to a bigger church, paid for by what must have been a 15-year capital campaign along with an anonymous donor, by the time I was 16. This was strange, almost like moving houses, and we had a new and very strict music director, but we still had our old organist. She was a very sweet woman who wore gargantuan hats and had a voice like a set of damp bagpipes that could only make one very high sound.

Her organ playing was fine, despite a very erratic concept of rhythm, but she would always use a microphone to sing into, despite the fact that her voice carried unfortunately well no matter how little magnification she provided it with. The music director saw this as a personal af-

front. He would always try to hide the microphones from her.

My brother and I complained, but this woman was truly the highlight of the mass — with the notable exception of Dennis. Dennis was, and almost certainly still is, a short man who usually wore denim and who perpetually had a cold. He drove a tractor most places — I'd seen him drive it on the highway before — and lived with his mother until her death at 90-something. He is extremely friendly and kind and always insisted on shaking everyone's hands.

Unfortunately, my dad has a horror of germs akin to many people's fear of spiders or snakes. The look on his face when Dennis would sneeze or cough into his hand and then happily shake my dad's was absolutely priceless. And it would happen every single week, without fail.

"Dr. Reardon!" Dennis would always begin. Cough cough, shake shake, sneeze cough wheeze shake, "So good to see you!"

Of course because Dennis was so nice Dad had to stand there and chat with

him, all the while resisting the urge to grab the hand sanitizer my mom carried in her purse. You would never have known how bothered my dad was unless you knew him well, thank goodness. Dennis would always shake my hand as well, but I didn't mind. (I didn't learn to fear germs until I lived in AMR II).

The gist of all these anecdotes is that, at one time, it felt like half of my life was church. I was brought up to be conservative, and did not figure out that I had other options until I was in high school. Certainly many of the defining moments in my family life were in some way related to the Church, be they moments my siblings and I shared in PSR or memories like my dad singing hymns very badly in the car

on the way to church, or saying Grace all together as fast as we could before dinner and then having our parents make us say it again, "Slowly this time!"

Even when I agreed with everything that was said there, I found our parish irritating at best and embarrassing at worst. Now, my experiences there are the common ground I share with siblings who are growing up and changing more and more every day, especially as we literally no longer share common ground now that my family has moved.

We have forsaken our beautiful childhood land of rolling hills, tawny tufted grass and ancient lightning-struck oaks for new territories, and we now must find a way to hold ourselves together without it.

My parents live in Oregon now instead of Missouri, so it is still quite beautiful. Some would even say that it is more beautiful there. Naturally, one of the first things they did was settle into the local church scene. I went with them over break.

The first mass we went to was extremely promising. A short, bald man who looked like an elf gave a comically slow reading. Then came the sermon.

"Elve! There are five things to do to resist the devil!" The priest waved one hand wildly around, fingers outstretched. "One, the Rosary." He now brandished only one finger, pointed accusingly at the ceiling. "Now, you may be wondering why there are feasts. Do I have to go to church during the festivals? And I say, it is not a day of obligation... Always say the rosary! Always say it. There are five things to do to resist the devil! One, the Rosary. Two, the Bible. Now, once I was in the grocery store..."

I looked over at one my brothers and we smiled. Fewer of us may live in the same place now, and those of us that do are now in an Oregon neighborhood instead of Missouri pastures, but, by God, there will always be the unintentional humor of the Catholic Church in its

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## Becoming more than just another Hopkins pre-med

By **SABRINA CHEN**  
Science & Technology Editor

You'll know it when you see one. We sit in the front row of every class, answer every (rhetorical) question, flood review sessions and the 6 p.m. JHMI shuttle and follow professors around like lost puppies until we're sure they'll write us a letter of recommendation. Hopkins is our battleground, and we are feared and despised by our peers and faculty alike.

If there's anything to be said about Hopkins pre-meds, it's that we have a plan. I'm not just talking about the color-coded excel sheet with our four-year course load we made summer before freshman year. Most of us have outlined every aspect of our careers, from coursework to extracurriculars, internships and beyond.

With meticulously written resumes and overly practiced interview answers, we throw ourselves at every opportunity we can, flocking to homeless shelters, oncology labs and hospital wings.

When I first came to Hopkins, I can't say I was any different. After all, I sacrificed sunny California weather for the 80 percent acceptance rate our pre-med advising handbook boasts. Like many Hopkins pre-meds, I didn't want to be different; I just wanted to be at the top. I took physics and organic chemistry, started working in a microscopy lab, volunteered to teach middle school

girls science, applied to Women's Pre-Health Leadership Society (WPHLS) and shadowed doctors.

It was impossible not to compare: a lab partner who boasted first-author positions in two publications, a club member who had been accepted into an extremely prestigious summer program, a classmate who was rumored to have a perfect MCAT score. Constantly surrounded by people who always seemed to be one step ahead, I wondered what I could add to my own resume to compete.

It wasn't until I read the New York Times article "The Dog-Eat-Dog World of Applying to Med School," however, that I realized being a pre-med had consumed me. Written by a current medical student, the article delves into the "unwritten requirements to becoming a med-school matriculant" and the lengths students are willing to go to in order to fulfill these requirements.

Through the author's description of "fellow student rivals" and a "jaded state-of-being," I saw myself at the center of this pre-medical paranoia.

Like the author of the article, I really did enjoy the clubs I had joined, the classes I had taken and the shadowing opportunities I had taken advantage of. But even so, I decided to participate in all these activities because, at the back of my mind, I knew I was fulfilling the duty of being a good pre-med student. When was the last time I did something for myself? What would happen when I

erase "pre-med" from my identity a couple years down the line?

I decided then that I would start to consider and pursue the hobbies I had pushed away, even if it meant falling further from being the ideal pre-med. The next morning, I dusted off my camera and embarked on a project I had always wanted to initiate but never thought I had time for: Humans of JHU.

The Facebook page I started, modeled after Humans of New York, now has over 1,500 likes, and the hours I spend getting to know random people on campus are some of the highlights of my week. The project isn't scientific research or clinical volunteering, but it's something I genuinely love.

I made other little changes in my life, dropping my research position the microscopy lab I had little interest in and applying for an editor position on *The News-Letter*. I did things like taking a random anthropology class because the topic looked interesting, TA-ing a statistics course because I love standing in front of a classroom and just picking up a good novel because I had forgotten what it was like to read for fun.

Establishing myself as more than just a pre-med is a conscious effort. There are parts of me that will forever fit the stereotype: my double major in Biology and Neuroscience, my competitive spirit and my extremely Type A personality.

And while it might have been the reason I came to Hopkins in the



COURTESY OF SABRINA CHEN  
Chen has wanted to be a doctor since childhood.

first place, I no longer let "being pre-med" define my identity. Now, when I introduce myself to others, I might start with my passion for photography, interest in art and typography or my genuine love for building relationships with others.

I'm not saying that I leave out my aspirations to become a doctor, but I've realized that defining my identity as a pre-med shouldn't be a grade in organic chemistry or a checklist of community service and research positions. Instead, I'm focusing more on investing in myself and the things I'm most passionate about and working to build relationships with the people around me.

After all, those are the traits that make a good doctor.

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# Finding the courage to come out in the social media era

By **GILLIAN LELCHUK**  
Opinions Editor

I've spent the last year trying to write screenplays and short stories about teenage girls struggling to come out to their families and friends, and one question always came up from my peers in workshop and my professors: "I don't understand why it's so hard for her to come out."

I don't think I understood either until I was ready to write this article.

My name is Gillian Lelchuk, and I am gay. I am a lesbian. I am queer. I date women. And that's the first time I've said (written?) that in a public forum.

It's important to me that I write this, and I've wanted to write this, or some version of this, for almost two years. Since June 26, 2015.

That's the day the Supreme Court overturned the Defense of Marriage Act and upheld the ruling that overturned Proposition 8's same-sex marriage ban in California. That's the day the Supreme Court told America that love is love, and that's the day that rainbows took over the internet.

I woke up that morning to text messages from friends telling me how excited they were for me. I scrolled through my Facebook feed and watched as everyone I knew threw rainbow filters over their profile pictures. I checked Twitter and smiled when every major company celebrated the decision.

I wanted to kick the door down and burst out of the closet.

That day, I wanted so badly to tell the world which side of the rainbow I landed on. I had told my mom exactly 11 days before. I had told my older sister a few months

before. If there was any day to come out, it was that day.

But I didn't. And that summer, I worked for a Los Angeles-based Christian theater group, and that same week I overheard one of the actors, a man I had previously respected, break my heart.

"We're in the end of days," he said. "What was once considered right is now wrong, and what was once wrong is now right."

I never came out to him or anyone else in that group. I never even told them I'm Jewish.

I came out to my dad a few weeks later. This year, he almost banned the HGTV show *Fixer Upper* from our house because its hosts were maybe homophobic. (Disclaimer: they are not, and we still watch *Fixer Upper*.)

It's been almost two years since the SCOTUS decision, so you're probably wondering what happened in the meantime and why I hadn't written this sooner in some capacity.

Nothing really happened in the interim. I came out to my friends at school. I came out to my friends at home. I dated a couple of girls. I decorated my bedroom with rainbows. For all intents and purposes, I did come out.

But I never put anything on Facebook or anywhere else online, and it took me a while to figure out why. I was ashamed.

Sure, I went to pride parades, and I bought rainbow leggings, and I wore my "Make America Gay Again" hat before that joke became a mark of defiance. I had accepted who I was, and so had everyone else, but I still wasn't "out" online. I never hid anything, but I wasn't explicit.

I chalked it up to my future employers seeing it, but that's not really

why. The internet is scary, and internet people are mean, and I still felt shame over who I was. I was afraid.

More and more LGBT+ people are coming out, and for many people, it isn't as much of an othering experience as it once was. But for me, it was a big deal. Being gay made me feel different, and I spent so long being afraid that this difference was going to cost me relationships, that it was going to make people look at me differently.

For a while, I thought I wouldn't ever come out. I'd just date girls and maybe get married but never actually say the words. And that choice would be totally fine and valid, but I can't sit still and let myself slide through like that anymore.

As much as I wish it weren't, my sexual identity is politicized, and I have a responsibility to stand up and

speak out even when I'm afraid. My rights should not be up for grabs, but if I don't fight for them, how can I expect anyone else to?

I am extremely privileged, and I am so grateful to my family for giving me the world. But I need to fight to keep it and fight to hand it to other LGBT+ people, especially young people and people of color.

And maybe, just maybe, someone else who's struggling the same way I did will read this and know that yes, there are things to be afraid of, but they can't stop you unless you let them. You are bigger than your fears, and you have so much to be proud of.

Coming out is hard and it's scary, but for me, it's essential. I am proud of who I am, and I am proud of the people who stand beside me, in the closet or out.



COURTESY OF GILLIAN LELCHUK

Lelchuk and several of her friends celebrate Pride in San Diego during the summer of 2015.





# What it really means to be an introvert

By AUDREY HOLT  
Copy Editor

It's always the quiet ones. That's what they tell me anyway. I'm pretty sure the whole expression is, "It's always the quiet ones you have to watch out for," but to be honest, that doesn't help me understand it much. Do people expect me to jump out from behind their blackout curtains just as they're settling in for the evening? Steal the highlighters I borrow from them? Occasionally say something snarky? The horror.

If you haven't guessed it yet, I'm what you'd call "one of the quiet ones," reserved, an introvert.

So, what's that like?

Well, over the past few years, there's been a lot more talk about temperament and about introversion in particular. If you'd like to dig a bit further into the subject, feel free to do some Googling, hit the library or check out Bessie Liu's review of Susan Cain's *Quiet* in *The News-Letter's* March 2 issue. A tried-and-true humanities nerd, I'm not the best person to tell you about the science, but maybe I can give you a peek behind the curtain.

It goes without saying that no two introverts have an identical experience, just as no two extroverts do, and the baseline definition of introversion — being recharged and reenergized by time alone rather than by socializing — is relatively easy to understand.

As with most things, however, the official definition doesn't quite cover it. There are plenty of articles and listicles floating around about caring for

and nurturing your introverts, and that's all very well and good, but what about the initial experiences of introversion or the gray areas?

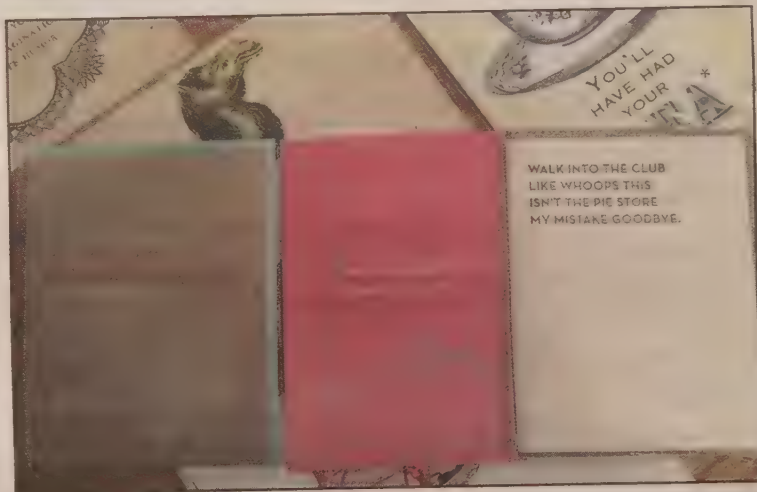
What about when am I having an introvert moment, and when am I having a tired moment, studious moment or just plain spaced-out moment? To be honest, I don't have any more idea than you do, usually, but it can occasionally be comforting to have a name to assign to the overall pattern.

Especially in elementary school, before either me or my classmates knew there was such a thing as temperament, there was a sense of something being different about my degree of inclination toward social situations, that there was something deficient about it compared to the bubblier, more loquacious second, third and fourth graders around me.

It's not as though I was biting the bullet to spend every weekend with my classmates but would wake up on Saturday morning feeling too drained for it: In other words, I was never at war with my own disposition. Even so, having parents and teachers question my involvement, whether I was doing okay or had enough friends, stood out as strange. I

didn't feel like I was missing out, but the people around me seemed to, so maybe I was wrong.

Eventually, though, I did come across the idea of introversion. The first person I tried this idea out on rebuffed it immediately, as though I had just called myself stupid. "You're not an introvert," she said, "You're very friendly."



COURTESY OF AUDREY HOLT

Holt believes many people have harmful misconceptions about what it means to be an introvert.

Thanks very much, but I never said I wasn't friendly or that I was afraid of people. I'm picturing myself curled on my couch on the weekend with Netflix and a bowl of raspberries, and she's picturing me tongue-tied and trembling in the face of small talk.

Introversion can even have its pluses, too. Facing a weekend without plans isn't a chore; It's an opportunity. Long drives by myself are a good time to think. Solitary train rides are solid gold for uninterrupted writing and reading.

Now, once again, not all introverts are alike. Just like extroverts, we've got our share of anxiety issues, be they related or unrelated to our temperament. We also have our share of enthusiasms. It's just that we might need an hour or two (or a day or two) to ourselves. It's not quite the same as the need for food or sleep; Sometimes it comes creeping up like

a sneaking suspicion that this might be a good weekend to go on a solitary hike, and sometimes it hits all at once.

We don't necessarily shut down to others entirely, but if we can extricate ourselves from any big-group plans with a reasonable amount of grace, we might just do that. (And, hey, even ambiverts and extroverts have those moments.)

Say it with me now, friends: Introverts have friends, not misanthropy issues. I know it's not your first time hearing it, but the reminder can be helpful, even to me when I'm wondering why the event I've looked forward to all week now seems like an uphill climb.

Most of the time, I can psych myself up, get out there and have a good time (maybe still wearing a blanket shawl for good measure), but sometimes I'll indulge and give my introversion a night to itself.

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# Unlearning my grandfather's masculinity

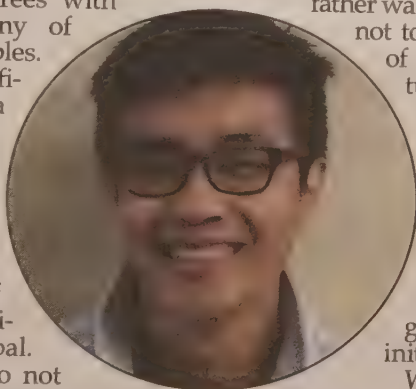
By **SCOTT ZHENG**

Science & Technology Editor

"You're a man now! Stop crying."

My nine-year-old self shuffles uncomfortably in the wooden chair but not because of the summer heat. I do not dare look my grandfather in the eyes, since doing so would be seen as a sign of defiance. The more he says these words, the more my tears flow even though I understand him perfectly. I try to find the words in my limited Chinese vocabulary that will satisfy my stern grandfather.

My grandfather is not a large man by mass, but his voice can intimidate anyone who disagrees with him or any of his principles. And his definition of a man is traditional — a stoic figure that can shake off any kind of abuse, physical or verbal. Clearly, I do not fit that archetype. I struggle to contain my tears as I breathe in and out heavily.



Before that summer, I was known as the crybaby of the school. I was overly sensitive to anything — name-calling, small scrapes from falling on asphalt or even forgetting to bring my completed homework to school.

My grandfather probably could not believe that my parents would raise their son, a man, as they raised me. He always talked about how my mother raised herself and her younger sister on her own, and that even a girl was tougher than I was.

At the beginning of that summer, I cried almost every day. But as the days passed, I cried less frequently, conditioning myself to be the man my grandfather wanted me to be and not to show any signs of weakness. Eventually my grandfather returned to China, but I continued to put on a stoic mask for years afterwards. I had learned how to be my grandfather's definition of a man.

When I started playing violin in my junior high school orchestra, there were only about four other stu-

dents in my year, and I did not know anybody because it was a new school for me. One of them, Hannah, tried talking to me and we soon found out that we shared five out of our seven classes. We also had a similar interest in sports, but more than anything I really just enjoyed having someone I could talk with to pass the time in orchestra when we weren't playing music.

One day, she asked me a question I won't ever forget.

"Why don't you smile or laugh more, Scott?"

Dumbfounded, I stood there not knowing how to answer her seemingly simple question. Even though I felt happiness when we talked, I was unable to translate that emotion to my face.

"I don't know," I said. "I just don't feel like it."

I continued to ponder her question throughout the rest of the day, but it wasn't until much later that I was able to piece the puzzle together. I realized that by conforming to my grandfather's idea of a man, I had not only caused myself to stop shedding tears, but I had also stopped smiling.

The next day in school, I made

an effort to smile more. Without seeing how I looked to others, I felt incredibly awkward and wanted to continuously wear

my stoic mask. It felt comfortable to me at that point. Throughout the rest of junior high, I struggled to show any kind of emotion, whether it was happiness or sadness, anger or excitement.

However, I had planted the seeds of unlearning how

my grandfather's idea of a man.

Even to this day, I still tend to put on an emotionless face at times. When my friends' parents see me, they ask if I'm happy. Some of my friends call me a sad boy.

However, I realize that unlearning what it means to be a man does not happen instantly. I feel much more comfortable laughing and smiling with my friends now than I did in the past. Sometimes, I feel even brave enough to shed a tear.

My grandfather would no doubt be disappointed in me if he were to see all of the times I cried since that summer. But now I feel like I have the courage to face him non-stoically. To face him as a man.





# Refusing to let masculinity standards define my sexuality

By JACOB TOOK  
Staff Writer

In the recent adaptation of "Beauty and the Beast," we got our first canonically gay character in a Disney film. And despite the negative discourse about LeFou's characterization, it's great to see such a huge corporation with such a dodgy past taking steps in the direction of diversity.

We also saw an unnamed, apparently male character who seemed pleased to be wearing a dress after an attack from Belle's horrifically faceless, opera-singing wardrobe. And that's great. But at the end of the film there was a glimpse of this character dancing with LeFou, which is not so great, because gender and sexuality should not be equated like that.

I'm not here to criticize Disney (not that I think Disney especially cares what I have to say), but I am here to share a little bit about how

my identity as a gay man has been constantly attacked and dogged by negative stereotypes about masculinity.

Fighting toxic masculinity is familiar to people from a wide range of gender identities and sexualities, and it's not something that any one group can overcome alone. It often enforces gender roles of male dominance, and I can only begin to imagine how it affects someone who is questioning their gender identity.

I'm gay, and my struggle against masculinity has been a bit more straightforward (pun intended). In a lot of ways, being gay is great. I'm proud and a little blessed to be pretty much universally out, and my sexuality is a large part of my identity.

And yet growing up in Texas while beginning to question my sexuality was decidedly not great. I've been harassed for what others perceived as effeminate characteristics since before I properly understood the difference between a man and a woman.

Honestly, I'm not quite sure why everyone who knew me was so certain I was gay when I was six years old, though I can certainly imagine why they reacted negatively because of that perception. I don't consider myself particularly effeminate, although I've always had a penchant for

theatrics and loved calling attention to myself in elementary and middle school.

But the fact remains that I don't have many close male friends because, since elementary school, I was ostracized by the boys for being gay (years before I came to that realization myself, I might add). When I started getting crushes on boys in middle school, I responded negatively, the way I'd been conditioned to by everyone around me.

I remember going to ridiculous lengths to prove to myself and others that I wasn't gay. I dated actual females, purposefully let my classmates catch me doodling naked women and, worst of all, genuinely tried to police my behavior to behave in a manner I deemed more manly.

And then, in eighth grade, something happened that delayed my coming out process by two or three years: I kissed a boy.

After that I was so consumed with anxiety that I wouldn't be "man enough" and worry that the friends I'd made would reject me that I bottled up all my gayness and buried it somewhere deep down inside me. After that, I went through years of fear and insecurity about my masculinity and my sexuality, which I perceived to be inevitably linked.

I think it's important here to distinguish homophobia and toxic masculinity as they've impacted my life. Since coming out, I haven't experienced much homophobia in the same form.

I know now that what I went

through before coming out was because I'd been forced to conform to this idea of masculinity even though it didn't reflect who I was, and when I didn't fit in with that mold I was only further distanced from the other boys.

We have got to stop enforcing masculinity on men and boys because it was that fear of not fitting in with social standards of manhood that made it so difficult for me to accept my sexuality.

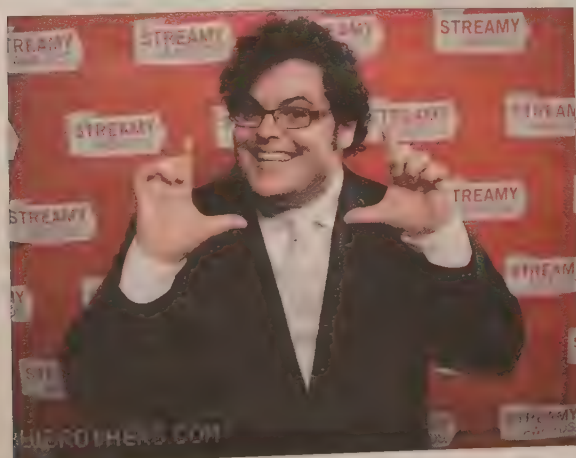
I'm still fighting against standards of masculinity, despite generally considering myself to be masculine. Why is it that I should feel any differ-

ently about painting my nails? Why was getting "Queen Nicki" (referring to The Queen Nicki Minaj) on my senior shirt such a big deal?

The difference between me now and me from three years ago is that today I understand the difference between sexuality and gender, and I know that expectations about my masculinity should not curb expressions of my sexuality.

Knowing Disney had confirmed LeFou to be their first gay character, I was horrified that I was going to see the queenie, over-the-top comic relief that has become ubiquitous with gay representation (thanks, "Mean Girls").

Instead, what I got was a nuanced character who was still funny but not at the expense of his sexuality. While he was by no means perfect, LeFou represents the start of real mainstream diversity, not gay representation designed by and for straight people.



THE BUI BROTHERS/CC-BY-SA-2.0

Disney's latest *Beauty and the Beast* features an openly gay character, LeFou.

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## Rediscovering my Korean heritage in college

By **KELSEY KO**  
News & Features Editor

I think it was in fourth grade when I truly came to grasp a sense of my "otherness." It was a hot August day, and I was playing on the swings at my local community center. A girl with mousy brown hair and glasses came up to me and asked, "Why is your face so flat?"

I honestly didn't have an answer. How can you explain why you look the way you do? Something as simple as an innocent question on that playground set the stage for the persistent feeling of alienation that I've felt while growing up among my white peers.

Growing up in small-town Pennsylvania meant that in my grade, there were only two other girls that looked like me. In my high school, which was half-black and half-white, there wasn't a single Korean girl in any of my classes. I was placed into the 'A track' in middle school, where the normal smart kids — the white kids — learned in the same classrooms. As a result, I came of age among girls with porcelain white skin and brown-blonde hair as I stood among them, a strange Asian deviation in both appearance and heritage.

It was the microaggressions in school that made me feel so alone. In elementary school, a white boy I had a crush on pulled his eyes into slits with his index fingers and said, "I could never like a girl who looked like this." Another time, I borrowed a jacket from my white friend and when I returned it, he told me it smelled like soy sauce, that it "smelled Asian."

In other instances, white kids at school would tell me I "looked really Asian" whenever I wore my hair in a messy bun. In all these moments, I became acutely aware of the fact that I was not like everyone else.

During my years in school, my shame slowly spiraled into what I can see now was self-hatred. Looking back, I wasn't proud of being American like I would insist on telling my friends — I was proud of acting "white," of fitting into a Caucasian cultural identity.

This slow erasure of my Korean identity began in middle school, when I proudly proclaimed that I hated Korean pop music and TV shows. I remember the hot flush of embarrassment I would feel when my friends would come to my home and see Korean dramas on the television, asking why my mom didn't watch American shows like their

moms did.

In high school, when my parents would give my friends rides home from school, I would get upset at them for speaking to my friends in English because I was embarrassed of their Korean accents. When I got home from school and saw my small eyes and snub, flat nose in the mirror, I wished desperately that I would have big eyes and a tall nose like all the white girls at school did.

In Korea, it is common to get plastic surgery, which unsurprisingly helps girls look like Westernized versions of themselves. Offhandedly, Korean relatives mentioned that I could get double-eyelid surgery or maybe a nose job. I compromised by using double-eyelid tape, which creates a second crease on

your eyelid, to try and get those bigger eyes, to try and look more white.

I still remember how when I was around 16 or 17, I beamed with pride when someone told me, "You're basically a white girl."

I dated white boys in high school and surrounded myself with my white friends, safe in a cocoon of self-created privilege and thinly veiled disdain for my own identity.

But then came college, and for the first time in my life, I began to learn and live alongside people who looked like me. Compared to my high school in which I only saw black and white everyday, at Hopkins I met Asian people from all different walks of life — Chinese people, Japanese people, Indian people, Pacific Islanders.

In my a cappella group freshman year, I met three Korean girls who also became my friends. I began to have conversations, both casual and academic, with people who came from similar backgrounds as me and grew up being Asian in America.

It was in college, when I was faced with no choice but to confront my own Korean identity, that I slowly began to accept it. This is why I believe visibility is so important. In Hollywood, Asian actors face great obstacles breaking into the industry, and directors continue to cast white people in Asian roles, which

only exacerbates the problem for Asian people like me who grew up seeing very few people who looked as they did.

When you grow up a minority among white people, it is easy to forget who you really are.

Your alienation evolves into self-erasure as a form of self-defense, the complete and utter demolition of your own identity as you 'white-wash' yourself in order to survive in an environment full of microaggressions.

The process of reclaiming my Korean identity has been an arduous and recent one, and each day, I remind myself that where my family comes from is important. I want to apologize to my parents who had to try and understand why I was pushing my own heritage, and them, away. I want to apologize to myself for denying myself a chance to connect with my roots as I grew up. This semester, I am taking three classes in the East Asian Studies department. I am finding out who I am, to atone for the years lost.

The observations that I might be "so Asian" don't bother me. I don't try to be someone, or some race, that I am not. Rather, I want people to see me as someone who acts on the basis of my morals, values, and experiences, and not the prescribed notions of race. "You act so white" is no longer a compliment to me.







## Debunking the perpetual foreigner myth

By **MORGAN OME**  
Layout Editor

San Francisco. My mother's womb. None of your business.

These are the answers I want to give when I'm asked, "Where are you really from?"

But, because I lack the nerve and am too afraid of upsetting the other person, I don't.

A couple of months ago, I was at a church in Mount Vernon when the man in front of me turned around to greet me.

"Ni Hao," he said.

"Good morning," I replied, forcing a tight smile.

"Oh," he frowned, clearly disap-

pointed. "You're not from China?"

"Nope."

"So where are you from?"

"California."

"No, where are you really from?"

I sighed internally.

"San Francisco," I said. "I was born here; I'm actually a fifth generation American."

The man lowered his head in embarrassment and turned away. Later, in the middle of a hymn, he looked back at me.

"I hope you don't think I'm racist," he whispered.

I didn't think he was intentionally being a racist bigot, but I did think he was feeding into views that contribute to xenophobia

and racism. The assumption that Asian Americans are foreigners may seem innocuous, but the underlying attitudes can lead to frightening actions.

The Chinese Exclusion Act, the Japanese internment camps and the recent shootings of two Indian men in Kansas were all fueled by fear of foreigners.

That's why when people ask me, "What are you?"

"Where are you from?" and "How long have

you lived in America?" I feel uncomfortable and on edge.

Why do people automatically assume that I am an immigrant?

It has taken me a while to find a way of responding to questions about my race and ethnicity, and it isn't always easy. I used to become silent and paralyzed by anger. Now I try to strike a balance between educating the other person while still pointing out their misconceptions.

Last year, I went to a conference on diversity where I was one of only two Asian-American students in attendance. I must have stood out because the keynote speaker came over to introduce himself. He was curious to know "what kind of Asian" I was. Stunned and perplexed, I told him that on my mother's side, I'm Japanese-American, and on my father's side, I'm Korean-American.

"Wow, that's so interesting," he said. "How do your parents get along when relations between Japan and Korea have been so tense historically?"

I was flabbergasted. Neither do my parents represent entire nations, nor is their relationship indicative of complex foreign policy. Dumbstruck, I said nothing in response and hoped he would change the subject. He didn't. Instead, he turned to the group to make an announcement.

"It's so important to learn about and embrace other cultures. I was just telling this young lady over here how important it is for us to all visit each other's countries," he said.

This is my country! I'm American! I wanted to say. I wasn't born in Japan or Korea, and I don't speak the languages of either country.

I think some people are genuinely curious to learn about other people's ethnicities. Their desire to understand other cultures is well-meant.

However, I would advise against asking questions surrounding those topics upon initially meeting someone. For me, the question is too loaded and carries too many negative connotations with it.

It implies that Asian Americans aren't really American. We're still outsiders, still considered "other." No matter how long we have been in this country, we're still viewed as foreigners. My family has lived in the U.S. for generations and in some cases, longer than many of my white friends' ancestors. Yet they are never assumed to be foreigners like I am.

I want to emphasize that I am never offended by being mistaken for an immigrant. Immigrating to a new country is something to be proud of. However, the immigrant identity does not apply to me, and the assumption that it does is frustrating.

And while I am proud of my heritage, I am more than just that. When a person asks me where I really am from, it says the only thing they care about is my racial and ethnic makeup.

How important is it to know someone's race or ethnicity? I think it is secondary to knowing a person's name and their interests and their personality.

When you reduce a person to the color of their skin, you miss out on getting to know who they really are. You end up reducing them to a category and type. You risk alienating them. And in today's tense political climate, we need to build bridges not barriers.



COURTESY OF MORGAN OME

A fifth-generation American, Ome fights to dispel the perpetual foreigner myth.

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## Gentrification and authenticity in D.C. Chinatown:

By **ROLLIN HU**  
News & Features Editor

Last summer, while looking for a free bike on Craigslist, one thing led to another, and I ended up working part-time at a Chinese restaurant in D.C.'s Chinatown. Since then, people have asked me what I did there, and I can't really say.

I did some cooking, some cleaning, some serving, some advertising and a lot of cursing in Chinese. I'd go to my internship during the day and then go to the restaurant in the evening to put on an apron and serve bowls of noodles to an endless stream of hipsters, Chinese tourists and federal employees.

I ended up learning about how restaurants are run, how to cook some dishes, and I

learned some stuff about Chinese-American identity.

**"We aren't a Chinese restaurant; We are an Asian fusion restaurant. Get it right."**

The restaurant boss is in his late 20s and opened this restaurant last May. He adamantly claims that he does not run a Chinese restaurant. Why? Because according to him, "Chinese restaurants" are shoddy takeout places where people order a \$5.95 greasy pork lo mein and a pu pu platter at 11 p.m. while stoned.

These restaurants completely ruined the reputation of Chinese food according to Americans, and as a result, our entire cuisine (and culture) is looked down upon as cheap calories to deliver MSG to taste

buds.

We are supposed to be an "Asian fusion" restaurant. "Asian fusion" is the new yuppie brand that is used to attract all the younger middle class customers to drop an unnecessary amount of money for a dish that typically adds teriyaki and Sriracha to something banal like a salad. How novel.

These are the people the boss tries to cater to, because they are quick to spend money and enjoy writing self-aggrandizing food reviews to share with their buddies.

But the thing is, we sell a lot of Chinese food, the full spectrum of it. We have dishes ranging from General Tso's Chicken to trick white people to a Nanjing saltwater duck that Chinese natives say tastes like it does back home.

The dumplings in the restaurant are made the same way as my parents make them on our countertops. I would know, because I've been up until 1 a.m. folding dumplings with a bunch of old Chinese people in a stuffy kitchen. The head chef got his training at a culinary school in China and has a passion for Chinese food that

far surpasses my own. We sold Chinese food, and it was good Chinese food. I wouldn't have worked there if that were not the case.

It is ridiculous that we rejected this "Chinese restaurant" label. The restaurant really had the potential to stress its authenticity as a selling point. Given its resources, the restaurant could have campaigned to redefine Chinese food as a cuisine with a rich history rooted in delicate and diverse flavors.

Jumping on the "Asian fusion" hype train without making an honest attempt at fusion is a waste of what assets the restaurant actually had. And having an authentic Chinese restaurant in D.C. Chinatown would be a significant improvement to the neighborhood.



COURTESY OF ROLLIN HU  
Honeygrow, which opened a Charles Village location, is also in D.C. Chinatown.



COURTESY OF ROLLIN HU  
While D.C. Chintown still has famous Chinese-style architecture, there are few local businesses left.





## walking the fine line between exploitation and prosperity



COURTESY OF ROLLIN HU  
Chain restaurants, which now dominate Chinatown, are required to post signage in Chinese, too.

"Oh my god, D.C. Chinatown is so fake. If you want real Chinese food you have to go somewhere else."

Hi Yelp review lady. I'm sorry that our restaurant's food cannot account for the legacy of demographical shifts and gentrification in the neighborhood. Your complaint that D.C. Chinatown has become a hub of corporatized franchises is perfectly valid, but it is ridiculous to believe that the presence of a Walgreens and a Hooters next door is lowering the quality of our food. However, I do understand your disdain for the neighborhood.

The first time I visited D.C.'s Chinatown was upsetting. I was looking for an Asian su-

permarket to buy cheap soy sauce in bulk, and I couldn't find one.

Instead, I encountered a Dunkin Donuts, a McDonalds, a Chipotle and a Verizon Wireless Arena. Adding insult to injury, all of these businesses had some ridiculous Chinese slogan underneath their logo, because the city wishes to preserve the "cultural heritage" of the neighborhood for tourist and entertainment purposes.

Therefore, D.C.'s Office of Planning requires all businesses in the area zoned as "Chinatown" to have Chinese characters and signage. That's why it says "best hamburger in the world" in Chinese underneath the Fuddruckers sign. Though I'm sure Fud-

druckers and Hooters are fine establishments, masquerading them as Chinatown businesses is laughable at best.

Following the 1968 riots, many Chinese families in D.C.'s Chinatown left to move to the suburbs of Maryland and Virginia. The population of Chinese Americans fell from a high of 3000 to 300 residents today with many of them facing pressure to vacate by building developers. It's become a Chinatown without any Chinese people and very few Chinese businesses.

This past summer, I thought about what it means to be authentic to my heritage. The restaurant dismissed its Chinese identity to chase prevailing trends. The neighborhood embraced being Chinese without a drop of Chinese blood to back it up. In both of these cases, people shed authenticity for a profit.

While I understand that people want to make money, there are surely ways to do that without this whole meaningless charade. Surely, there must be a way to sell Chinese food in a Chinatown that is Chinese.

Surely, there must be a way to sell Chinese food in a Chinatown that is Chinese.

As a disclaimer, I still work for the restaurant by managing website stuff, so I didn't include its name, since this isn't meant to be a promotional piece. If you do end up somewhere that sounds like this restaurant and want a suggestion for a dish, go for the signature bowl. It's a solid choice.



COURTESY OF ROLLIN HU  
Fuddruckers is another franchise that has a location in D.C. Chinatown.





## Becoming my own person as an identical twin

By **AMANDA AUBLE**  
Editor-in-Chief

We wore matching outfits. We shared a room. We even had bunkbeds. We watched Mary Kate and Ashley Olsen on VHS. It's true: We did switch places to confuse our high school teachers.

Some tips to help you tell us apart? I'm taller by one inch, my face is shaped more like an oval and – as much as I hate to admit it – my voice is deeper.

I'm only technically older. Our mother, like many mothers of multiples, had a cesarean section, but explaining those details every time gets pretty uncomfortable. So, even though it sounds impossible, I say I'm a minute older.

These may seem like random facts, but these details make up my usual responses to questions about my life as an identical twin.

Don't get me wrong, I enjoy these conversations. I appreciate anyone taking the time to learn what it's like to be a twin. Because twins tend to fascinate people, I've used it as an icebreaker myself.

So it's not really the questions; it's the repetition itself. After 22 years, my sister, Kristine, and I can now predict what we'll be asked. (Not to be mistaken as some twin superpower.) We recite responses designed to appease our enthusiastic interviewers. We even stand side by side so they can stare at our features, making it easier for them to compare and contrast.

The push and pull between these similarities and differences is what drives our relationship as twins.

On one hand, sharing the same qualities like age, appearance and interests has had its advantages. I'm grateful that I never had to go through important moments alone while growing up.

When most kids worried about making friends on the first day of school, I knew I could always talk to Kristine. We've continued to act as each other's safety net as we've gotten older. Whenever there's a lull at a party filled with people, we'll end up as mirror images, sitting across a table telling each other jokes.

On the other hand, sharing experiences as a pair has put pressure on our identities. When I was younger, I struggled to appreciate being an identical twin without allowing it to define who I was.

Because we were always together, taking similar classes and rowing on the high school crew team, most people grouped us as the "Auble Twins." I developed my own tendency to overlook the pronoun "I" and use the collective "we" out of habit.

I also remember agonizing over friendships. If we knew the same people, did we share friends? If not, whose friends were whose? Whenever this argument surfaced, I resented my sister more than any specific friend.

We both made small efforts to establish separate identities. I remember rushing back to the house on multiple occasions to change an outfit so people wouldn't assume we had made an effort to match. Kristine also wanted to appear different and accumulated eight ear piercings.

When the time came to apply to college, we sent out applications without

ever really deciding if we would or wouldn't separate. Kristine had her heart set on the University of Maryland. I didn't apply with her, but one of the many reasons I applied to Johns Hopkins was because we'd live in the same state, which actually ended up being the case.

After sharing a room for 18 years, I got a new roommate my freshman year at Hopkins. On top of dealing with the usual homesickness, my confidence plummeted without my sister at my side. More than ever, I wanted someone familiar to help me navigate through the awkward conversations and hectic orientation events. I hadn't realized how much I depended on my twin relationship.

Despite my initial fears, persevering through this separation allowed me to find confidence in my own identity.

At first, I thought I just needed others to view me as an individual. Instead, I needed to convince myself that I could find my own path as a college student. I had no choice but to confront the question I had learned to avoid: Who am I without a twin?

The answer didn't arrive right away, but persisting through these insecurities forced me to follow my interests. I joined *The News-Letter* and started



COURTESY OF AMANDA AUBLE  
After growing as twins, Kristine and Amanda now go to different colleges.

throwing myself into the Hopkins community by reporting on all kinds of events. I studied alone, made new friends alone, and I now live alone in my own apartment.

I have even started to enjoy the solitude. Because people don't initially see me as a twin, the comparisons that once put so much pressure on me have lifted. I have learned to identify as an individual instead of as part of a pair.

Now, whenever Kristine and I reunite, the stares surprise me. I forget that people see double when we pass by.

We'll always look the same. We'll still answer the same questions. If someone confuses us or calls us by the wrong name, we'll probably both still smile and nod. But I know now that even though we thrive when we're together, I can survive when we're apart.